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Pages 22-26

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## CHALLENGE FOR SPORT RELIEF!

*Local teachers tackled a Sport Relief challenge that saw them call at 29 schools in one day on a ride around Bridgend County Borough.*
(SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 7).

# Local man admitted a burglary at his friend's house COURT TOLD

Report by AJ SICLUNA

**A BRIDGEND householder felt "betrayed" when a close friend and compatriot deliberately targeted his home and raided it when he was on holiday.**

Wojciech Grzywaczewski (28) Pen-y-Waun Road, Cardiff, admitted charges of burglary and taking a vehicle without consent.

He was jailed for two years and disqualified from driving for two years.

At the time of the offences, the court heard, he was living in Bridgend.

Judge Patrick Curran told him: "These were mean offences. You burgled the home of someone who had been your friend for many years. You took valuable property and there was a high degree of culpability."

Prosecutor Gareth James said the house was raided in Longacre, Brackla, on April 29, the home of Artur Buszkiewicz.

The defendant and the householder had known each other for four years. They worked together at Coney Beach fairground and were very good friends.

Mr Buszkiewicz lived at the address with a partner and before going on holiday, cleaned the property thoroughly and left a VW Passat on the drive.

A neighbour, who was keeping an eye on the property, noticed the vehicle was missing and soon after spotted a broken window.

The matter was reported to the police and when the couple returned, they found property worth about £4,000 had been stolen.

The police had received a report that the car was in the possession of a number of drunken men and was spotted swerving across the road at Ogmore by Sea, before hitting a kerb.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

# A 'PREDATORY' OFFENDER USED FACEBOOK TO CONTACT TEEN

Crown Court report by AJ SICLUNA

**A young sex offender has been described as "manipulative and predatory" by a judge at Cardiff Crown Court.**

Daniel Lloyd, 21, of West Avenue, Cefn Cribwr, admitted 11 charges of making indecent photographs of a child. He also pleaded guilty to possessing indecent photographs of a child and inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

The case, the court heard, involved a girl of 13 who lived in London and who Lloyd had contacted via Facebook.

Recorder Paul Lewis, QC, said "A pre-sentence report indicates that this man presents a risk of serious harm to children.

"I regard his behaviour as highly manipulative and predatory."

Potentially, said the Recorder, he could fall into the category of being a dangerous offender.

He said that Lloyd realised the girl involved was of low self-esteem and a carer for her mother.

He said there had been threats from Lloyd and the acts he had required her to perform were of a gross kind.

Said the Recorder: "She has suffered serious emotional damage."

Lloyd, he continued, had carried out a campaign, knowing the girl was vulnerable.

Sentence was adjourned on Lloyd for six weeks for a psychiatric report. He was decribed as being of limited intelligence, and released on conditional bail.

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## Star-struck by Ospreys!

*Pupils at St John's School, Porthcawl, were star-struck when they were visited by Ospreys' players Matthew Dwyer and Ashley Beck – SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 9.*

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# Peer in Porthcawl to give political pep-talk

**PORTHCAWL Comprehensive School hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords on Friday, April 4 to encourage students to engage more with the political and parliamentary process.**

Lord Touhig met sixth form students for an hour to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords.

This was followed by a question and answer session on various aspects of the parliamentary process and life at Westminster generally.

Miss Crook – head of sixth form at Porthcawl Comprehensive School said: "This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem so far removed from their daily lives.

"The students thoroughly enjoyed the visit and took the opportunity to ask Lord Touhig some very insightful and thought provoking questions. After the session, Lord Touhig remarked upon how engaging he had found our students, and that he had thoroughly enjoyed his visit to Porthcawl."

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's 'Peers in Schools' programme, which has been running across the UK since 2007 and has so far involved around 50,000 young people.

# Toilet-twinning Gweirydd is flushed with success!

**A BRIDGEND man is taking part in a quirky campaign to twin toilets in south Wales with loos in poor countries.**

Environmental health officer Gweirydd Williams is set to become the first in the UK to twin 100 loos through toilet twinning. The initiative, which links loos in the UK with latrines in developing nations, is raising funds to provide vital sanitation in the most inaccessible places on the planet, from Afghanistan to Zambia.

Gweirydd, who works for Bridgend County Borough Council, is set to hit his 100-twin target with his latest fundraising venture – a 'Onesie Challenge' across the Severn Bridge on Saturday, April 12.

Together with some other 'Mad Toilet People', Gweirydd will be racing across the mile-long Severn Bridge and back, dressed in a super-hero onesie.

"I don't care what people think: I'm only interested in spreading the word about sanitation," he says. "If it stops children getting ill and protects women from being assaulted because they have their own private and safe loo, that's all that matters to me!"

Over the past two-and-a-half years, Gweirydd has twinned 92 loos through various fundraisers, including sponsored back-waxing. For each £60 raised for Toilet Twinning, he awards a certificate with a photo of the twinned latrine (and its GPS coordinates) to beneficiaries of his choosing. These have included his workplace, his local MP and a dog kennel.

He says he was first inspired to get involved in sanitation work through visits to the Philippines, where he saw first-hand the dangers of open defecation.

His work in Bridgend involves dealing with infectious diseases, making him very aware of the devastating consequences of poor sanitation on families' health, education and livelihoods: "Having a clean and safe loo is literally a life-saver," he says.

Gweirydd will be joined in his Onesie Challenge by, among others, Toilet Twinning CEO Lorraine Kingsley. Lorraine says: "It's estimated that 2.5 billion people don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo – so the world needs many more Gweirydds to take a stand and change this appalling situation. He's a true Toilet Twinning champion!"

Toilet Twinning (www.toilettwinning.org) is a partnership between development charities Cord and Tearfund. Its aim is to improve sanitation globally by providing working toilets, clean water and basic hygiene education.

*To sponsor Gweirydd, go to http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/MadToiletPeople.*

# Four for the price of one!

**BRIDGEND Castle Players will present their latest production: *An Evening of Entertainment* comprising four one-act plays this week.**

These are: *From Birmingham Jail (Martin Luther King Jr)* by DM Larson (by permission of www.freedrama.net), directed by Kelly Meek; *The Vampire Council* written and directed by Phillip Rattray; *Enter a Queen* by Michael Dines, directed by James Wilson; and *Dance,* written and directed by Phillip Rattray.

Performances will be held as follows: Friday, April 11 at Ogmore Vale Non-Political Club (this performance will be in conjunction with The Nantymoel Community Association)'; Sunday, April 13 at Aberkenfig Welfare Hall, and Saturday, April 19 at Cefn Cribwr Community Centre – 'The Green Hall'.

Doors open 7pm; curtain up 7.30pm. Tickets cost £5 each and will be available beforehand at the venues, at Dewi Griffiths Distinctive Jewellery, Bridgend, on the door on the night and through the Bridgend Castle Players' website, via the app for 'TicketSource'.

Details, maps of the venues, together with forthcoming productions, may be obtained from the Bridgend Castle Players' web-site: www.bridgendcastleplayers.org.

# Porthcawl U3A is on the web

**IN Porthcawl, we are fortunate to have an excellent example of a successfully community organisation that is so diverse in the services it offers to its members that it has become a shining example of what is good in life..**

Not only does Porthcawl U3A circulate its members each month with a menu made up of daily events that all can attend, but it now also prides itself on recording many of its special occasions on its web site. Anyone can log on to porthcawlu3a.webplus.com to see what really goes on.

We have recently started to video record some of our group activities such as our singalong group, walks through Newton Downs or the Daffodil walk in the Vale.

Also, recent high quality talks featured Allan Jones on the centenary of Dylan Thomas, as well as Kate Thomas CVO Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, giving us an insight into her hectic world of protocol.

By way of contrast, Geoff Henderson addressed the intriguing subject of the painting 'The woman in green.'

The strength of the U3A, however, continues to rely on its highly skilled and dedicated group of convenors. It is they that are the welcoming influence of Porthcawl U3A that ensures that all members new and old enjoy in the many and varied events that are on offer.

For information of how to join, telephone 01656 783663 and be sure of a warm welcome.

**Clive Mort**

# 'Friendship Festival' proves a success

**CARTREFI Cymru's choir 'The Bright Side of Life' made its debut last Friday at the Friendship Festival at the Heronston Hotel.**

**Cartrefi Cymru supports people with learning disabilities and the festival was an opportunity for people to get together and make new friends.**

**"This was the first time we have run the festival and we hope to hold more. The event was very successful," said Coun Mike Clarke, Mayor of Porthcawl, who opened the festival and presented certificates to 12 people who have gained their QCF award in Personal Progress.**

**"Getting a qualification makes a big difference to people and helps them to build self-confidence," he said.**

**The festival was enjoyed by everyone who attended. "The whole day was brilliant," said one visitor, Claire, from Bridgend.**

**Organisers thanked the Heronston Hotel for its hospitality, and First Choice Housing Association and Unison for their support.**

# Idea still helping – after 20 years!

**PORTHCAWL Rotary Club recently hosted a thought-provoking evening at the Hi Tide, during which they were shown the results of an initiative which began 20 years ago.**

Back in 1994, past president David Morgan presented an idea which has since become known as the 'Rotary Doctor Bank'. It is a register of doctors and nurses who volunteer their skills and time in providing medical care in developing countries.

The club was delighted to welcome two members of the team from the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Tom Dehn, surgeon and team leader and junior doctor Sonia Tsakagoshi.

Porthcawl Rotary had raised £3,500 which covered the airfare, accommodation etc for the team of six doctors to visit Uganda, where up to 100 hernia operations had been scheduled over a 10 day period!

The pair spoke eloquently about the operations, the operating conditions and the patients (some of whom had walked for up to 30 miles for their surgery).

The Porthcawl club was privileged to have as guests Arthur Knight, chairman of Doctor Bank, treasurer Mansell Thomas and secretary Susan Finch. Presiding over the evening was Porthcawl Rotary president, Colin Williams, who has been on the Doctor Bank committee for the past three years.

*Ivor Williams*

# Porthcawl Bridge club latest news

**RECENT results from Porthcawl Bridge Club are:**

Saturday, March 22. First – Colin and Lavinia Thomas; second – Liam Sheridan and John Beard.

Monday, March 24. First – Sue Anthony and Betty Longley; second – Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Thursday, March 27. First – Gary Williams and Pat Haworth; second – Sue Anthony and Trish Saunders.

Saturday, March 29. First – Colin and Hazel Heard; second – Glyn Williams and John Beard.

Monday, March 31. First – Emer Disley and Pat Haworth; second – Tony Haworth and Gary Williams.

Thursday, April 3. First – Roger Draper and Mary Fletcher; second – Trish Saunders and Connie Dick.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor Centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel 7pm – 10.15 pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

**TH**

## HIGH TIDE TIMES

**(UNTIL APRIL 17)**

***The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.***

| DATE | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 Thur | 03.43 | 7.4 | 16.19 | 7.5 |
| 11 Fri | 04.42 | 7.9 | 17.12 | 8.1 |
| 12 Sat | 05.25 | 8.4 | 17.53 | 8.6 |
| 13 Sun | 06.08 | 8.9 | 18.27 | 9.0 |
| 14 Mon | 06.45 | 9.3 | 19.03 | 9.4 |
| 15 Tues | 07.19 | 9.6 | 19.39 | 9.7 |
| 16 Wed | 07.57 | 9.8 | 20.16 | 9.9 |
| 17 Thur | 08.32 | 9.8 | 20.51 | 10.0 |

***While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.***

**E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484**
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# Tory AM calls for silt at Salt Lake to be tested

**PLANNING enforcement officers employed by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have been asked to investigate a possible breach of planning consent committed by the council itself.**

Welsh Conservative Regional AM Suzy Davies has been looking into the dumping of silt dredged from the Porthcawl harbour onto land at Salt Lake.

She said: "When the council received planning consent to carry out this work, a number of planning conditions were laid down including one that stated that the material, which is to be used to landscape the site, has to be comprehensively tested in order to prevent any chemical, biological or radioactive contaminants present creating a health hazard.

"Another condition states that the site should be landscaped within three months of the end of tipping, unless otherwise agreed in writing."

Mrs Davies said she had written to Mark Shephard, head of communities, on this matter after her attention had been drawn to it by constituent Gareth Davies of Porthcawl.

He continued: "Mr Shephard has sent me some information about testing carried out on the material while it was still in the harbour in 2012. I am now asking if sampling of this silt has taken place, as required by the planning consent, since it was moved to Salt Lake and if so, what are the results.

"The conditions laid down also state that no dumping of material shall take place on this site apart from the silt but I understand that boulders and pipes have been put there as well, which is a breach of planning. Also, it is more than three months since tipping ended but no landscaping work has been done.

"My main concern relates to the need to test this material. The silt lay at the bottom of the harbour for decades and is likely to be contaminated by oil, diesel and probably chemicals from portable loos, as well as sewage. If this testing has taken place, the council should publish the results so that everyone can see what's there.

"If the material is found to be safe then that will reassure people, If not, then action will be needed to take it to a site where it can be properly processed."

A Bridgend County Borough Council spokesman explained: "Plans have been developed to ensure that the materials excavated from the harbour can be removed as soon as possible.

"With an impermeable membrane in place, the materials are being stored securely and in line with all statutory requirements with no risk to public health.

"Unfortunately, the £3.4m transformation of Porthcawl Marina was already well under way when Morrisons announced that they were withdrawing their proposals for establishing a local store.

"This presented the council with a number of problems. The superstore development is linked to the highway improvements, and our original intention was to use the excavated material either as potential landscape fill or as engineering fill at the nearby site marked for leisure use.

"The current situation is that we are waiting to hear back from the other bidders for the foodstore development to see if they are still interested in pursuing this.

"The excavated material has a number of possible uses, so at the same time we have developed other options for its disposal, include ongoing discussions with local landowners who have expressed an interest in acquiring it.

"The council is making every effort to remove the material as soon as possible and will ensure that any future use will be in full compliance with all statutory guidelines."

*Janice Gregory AM, Coun Keith Edwards, Coun Phil White, Transport Minister Keith Edwards, Coun Ceri Reeves and Coun Mal Reeves visited Maesteg Comprehensive School to see their safe cycling and walking routes being put to good use.*

# *Minister announces funds to improve the routes to schools*

***RIGHT:*** *The safe cycling and walking routes to Maesteg Comprehensive School have proven to be a hit with pupils.*

**TRANSPORT Minister Edwina Hart chose to visit Maesteg Comprehensive School when she announced that £5m worth of funding will create safe walking and cycling routes for schools and communities across Wales.**

Locally, a total of £272,823 will be spent in Bridgend County Borough to improve cycling and walking routes around Cornelly Primary School and link them into the existing community access route at the Marlas Estate.

Bridgend County Borough Council will also receive £57,333 for a scheme to improve walking and cycling facilities at Cynffig Comprehensive School.

Mrs Hart visited Maesteg Comprehensive School to meet some of the pupils who regularly use the walking and cycling routes that have been built there during the past few years thanks to £350,000 worth of Welsh Government funding.

The Minister said: "I am very pleased to announce funding for these new projects which will ensure more people will be able to walk or cycle safely to schools and other parts of the their communities.

# JEWELLERY STOLEN AT LOCAL NURSING HOME

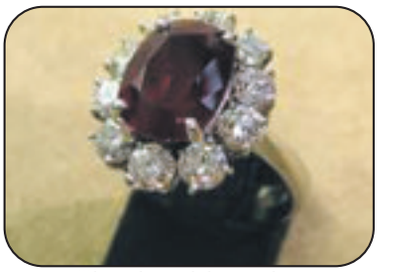
**POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a burglary from a residential nursing home which occurred between Thursday, February 27 and Thursday, March 6.**

**The theft happened at Southmead nursing home in South Cornelly when two items of jewellery were stolen from a handbag belonging to an 83-year-old female resident.**

**It had been left in a communal area of the home.**

**The stolen jewellery included a gold ring set with a ruby in a diamond cluster and a distinctive gold ingot necklace with diamonds set in the border and on a gold chain.**

***ABOVE:*** *The gold ingot necklace.*



*The ruby and diamond ring.*

***Detectives are appealing for anyone with information concerning this incident to contact South Wales Police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting occurrence number 1400075408.***

## TAX ADVICE FOR THE ELDERLY

***OLDER readers' monthly surgeries are held in Pencoed and Llantwit Major to offer free professional help and advice to those with income tax queries or problems.***

***For details, contact 0845 6013321.***

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# News in and out of class from Croesty Primary School, Pencoed

*The Abandoned Wreck, Barry.*

*Ciaran holds the Junior Youth Speaks shield.*

*Year 6 pupils at the Travellers Gallery.*

**AS part of a cross-curricular skills project year-5 and 6 children visited the Traveller's Gallery in Barry to see an art exhibition there and then do some sketching in the old harbour.**

They are going to be setting up their own art exhibition at the end of term taking inspiration from the Barry gallery visit.

"Part of what we wanted to achieve in school is to get the children using literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. I've attached one or two of the reviews written by the children which I hope you'll be interested in," said headteacher Martin Kaye.

In the 2014 Junior Youth Speaks competition, a pupil, Ciaran Davies managed to beat off the competition with his speech about the Bridgend Youth Theatre.

Ciaran was asked to go first and gave a confident performance on the night when he was able to deliver his speech with a clear voice.

Ciaran didn't need to refer to his notes and his speech, which was full of humour and interest kept the audience engaged.

This year's event was held in Tremains Primary School, with competitors from Coychurch, Tremains, Litchard, Trelales, Tondu, Maes yr Haul, and Old Castle primary schools.

Next year, the event will come back to Croesty – we won the event last in 2012 when Josie Davies gave her speech on Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson.

The event is one of the toughest for year-6 children – they have to write an engaging speech on a subject they have chosen and then deliver their speech to an audience of strangers.

Our success in recent years reflects on the quality literacy skills which our children develop with us. This year, nine of our year-6 children completed and performed speeches – all of these children were prepared to have a go.

We then had to pick one competitor and a reserve to go to the competition.

**MK**

## *ART EXHIBITION*

**PORTHCAWL Art Society's spring exhibition is on Saturday, April 19 (Easter Saturday) starting at 11am.**

The venue is the Old Police Station, John's Street, Porthcawl.

A coffee morning will be held to accompany the exhibition.

Weather permitting, we will also hold an outdoor exhibition starting at noon.

## *Jazz on the sands!*

**PORTHCAWL hosts its 12th annual Jazz Festival (April 11-13) ranging from traditional New Orleans to state-of-the-art fusion.**

Headlining this year is Chris Barber, celebrating 60 years at the top with the Big Chris Barber Band.

Also featured are Italian ace pianist Davide Logiri with his quintet, the dynamic Cardiff University Big Band, the virtuoso J Word Quintet, legendary trumpeter Digby Fairweather and Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants.

The Rhondda Symphony Pops Orchestra is augmented by a driving rhythm section and star soloists; and a series of jazz workshops will be held, where local schoolchildren can benefit from the enthusiasm and experience of some of the musicians attending the festival.

There will also be an open 'Jam on the Sands' session, where anyone can try out their jazz skills on stage, with the help of experienced musicians.

New to the festival this year is Colourscape. http://eyemusic.org.uk/Colourscape/, brightly coloured, linked domes, through which you can wander listening to the sounds of jazz music being performed in different parts of the site.

*For full details, visit www.porthcawl-jazz-festival.com, or call the Grand Pavilion on 01656 815995.*

CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# Offender (26) is given 'final opportunity'

**AN habitual offender breached an 18-month suspended sentence when he stole razor blades worth £55 from a branch of Boots in Bridgend.**

Robert Lewis, 26, of Alexander Place, Caerau, was convicted of that offence by Bridgend magistrates and had been committed to Cardiff Crown Court for sentence.

Prosecutor Gareth James said that Lewis was spotted stealing the razor blades on CCTV.

The police were called and recognised the defendant from the TV footage. He was later arrested going into the local Citizens' Advice Bureau.

He told officers he had sold the blades for £30 which he needed to pay for electricity and food.

Mr James said he had been convicted at Swansea Crown Court of possessing heroin with intent to supply and was given an 18-month suspended senence.

The circumstances were that he was with two others in a car and after an "intimate search" at a police station, he was found to have 3.5g of heroin, which he said he had bought for personal use.

His counsel, Meiron Davies, said: "At the time of the shoplifiting he was quite simply flat broke. He didn't use the money to buy drugs".

He said, his behaviour was "quite idiotic", but for some time he had been drug-free and provided negative drugs tests.

"He has done everything asked of him by the authorities and is making good progress," said Mr Davies.

He was said to have previous convictions for 28 offences, including burglary and theft.

For the shoplifting he was jailed for three months, the sentence suspended for 12 months, and a 150-hours unpaid work order imposed at Swansea Crown Court, was increased by 25 hours.

Recorder Paul Lewis, QC, said: "This is the final opportunity you are likely to get.

"You could not have complained had I sent you into immediate custody, but it would have undone all you have achieved."

# Local man (46) is jailed after attempted rape

**A WOMAN became traumatised and hysterical after a sex attack was carried out upon her in the Vale of Glamorgan.**

The man responsible, Andrew Lynch (46) of Dimlands Road, Llantwit Major, has been found guilty of attempted rape and sexual assault.

He was found not guilty of rape during the trial at Cardiff Crown Court. He was jailed for four years and on his release will have to register as a sex offender for life.

The court heard that in October 2012, Lynch went to a house where the woman resided when she was lonely, unhappy and a little drunk.

Judge Daniel Williams told Lynch: "You talked and drank, and she told you to leave."

It was alleged that he then attempted to rape her, and as she physically resisted, he continued "repeatedly and with determination".

She said she kicked out at Lynch, who ended up in a linen basket. She fled to neighbours, who described her as being "beside herself, traumatised and hysterical".

Lynch had denied the charges and the Judge added: "Your defence was unconvincing to say the least. If you had admitted the offences, the sentence would have been shorter."

To some, said the Judge, Lynch was a valued and trusted friend.

"But there is another side to you which you showed on this night. The effect on your victim has been profound and the sentence must reflect the verdict of the jury."

Lynch's counsel, Kevin Seal, said: "He appreciates what the sentence will be. There are many character references and the case has taken 17 months to come to trial."

# Brynteg runners up for the young consumers' title

*Brynteg's Alex Fox, Harry Davies, Callum Griffiths and Tom McArdle have booked their place in the UK final.*

**BRYNTEG Comprehensive year-12 students Callum Griffiths, Alex Fox, Harry Davies and Tom McArdle claimed second place at the Young Consumers of the Year 2014 competition at the Cardiff City Stadium.**

Co-ordinated by the Trading Standards Institute, the competition pits teams of four secondary school pupils against each other in a University Challenge-style consumer-based quiz, which included questions on consumer and legal affairs, credit and finance, and social responsibility.

Brynteg's boys reached the regional finals after winning a closely-contested county borough final hosted by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards team last November.

The consumer contenders then progressed through a semi-final round before finishing as runners up behind Torfaen's St Alban's School in the final.

Brynteg deputy head Robert Hopkins said: "I was delighted with the performance of the team, and couldn't have asked for more commitment and effort on the day. The boys were the highest scoring semi-finalists, and were unlucky not to win the competition, which would have been a second successive win for Brynteg Comprehensive.

"This was an exciting experience for the students, especially as the competition was held at Cardiff City Stadium and included a very entertaining tour of the stadium as well as dinner and accommodation the night before the competition."

The team will now work closely with the council's Trading Standards team to prepare for the UK Final in Harrogate on July 2, where they will face the champions and runners up from the English and Scottish regional competitions.

Deputy Leader of the council, Councillor David Sage, said: "Having attended this event in the past I know exactly how challenging the questions can be and how tough the competition is, so the team from Brynteg Comprehensive has done a great job to come so close to winning.

"I am delighted that the county borough will once again be represented at the UK Finals, and I'd like to wish the boys the best of luck in Harrogate."

*If your school wishes to take part next year's competition, contact Ellis Roberts, Senior Fair Trading Officer on 01656 643275; alternatively you can email tradingstandards@bridgend.gov.uk.*

# Drama group's Macmillan gift

*NICOLA Newhams, (above, second from the right), the area fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, received a cheque for £1,400 raised at 'Simply Broadway', the autumn show presented by Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.*

*Also pictured are Barrie Wilson, secretary, Michael Plowman, musical director and Ceri Miller, treasurer.*

*The company are currently working hard on their spring production, The Producers, at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl, May 1-3.*

# Man is jailed after cannabis discovery

**TWO 'cannabis factories' discovered by the police contained plants with a potential yield of the drug worth between £50,000 and £162,000, Cardiff Crown Court has heard,** ***writes AJ SICLUNA.***

Jamie Brown (27) of Buttrills Walk, Barry, was jailed for a total of 32 months.

He admitted two charges of producing cannabis and he was also in breach of a suspended sentence of producing cannabis at a property in Treherbert, where 34 plants had been grown.

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on December 14, police saw Brown in Blackberry Drive, Barry, in a car in which he was a passenger.

They indicated for it to stop, but it failed to and after a collision, it was abandoned.

The police then searched the property in Blackberry Drive and found 105 cannabis plants growing in four separate rooms.

The electricity supply had been bypassed, there was lighting and nutrients. A neighbour in the road said the premises had been rented to the defendant and another person, who never seemed to live there.

Later, the police found 50 plants growing in three separate rooms in a house in Commercial Street.

Brown, said Mr Pugh, handed himself into the police in February.

He was said to have previous convictions for possessing drugs with intent to supply, supplying drugs, causing actual bodily harm, escape and dangerous driving.

His solicitor, Jonathan Lewis, said: "He has a young family and has tried to find work."

Judge Neil Bidder pointed out that Brown had previous convictions for drugs offences and had not learned from the past.

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# Ty Hafan shop is opened by Luca (7)

Images by MIKE WILCOCK

**CROWDS started to gather early at 54 John Street in Porthcawl in anticipation for the opening of Tŷ Hafan's new shop.**

Eager shoppers were left 'all shook up' by Elvis impersonator Jimmy Elvis, who entertained the public with some hip-shaking songs.

But star of the show was seven-year old Luca Pucella, from Bridgend, who was joined by his parents, Beth and Angelo, along with Bridge FM's Lee Jukes to officially open the shop in the seaside town.

Luca, who was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010, is the only person in Wales to suffer from a rare, life-threatening condition called ROHHAD syndrome.

Before cutting the ribbon, Luca was asked what he thought of Tŷ Hafan, to which he replied, "epic!"

"We are absolutely delighted to be in Porthcawl and would like to thank everyone who came along to support us on our opening day," said retail general manager, Matt Williams.

Donations of good quality clothing, bric a brac, toys and videos are all very welcome at the shop. For more information, visit *www.tyhafan.org* or call 029 2053 2199.

*See more tractor action on page 29!*

# Man jailed after threats to burn down property

by AJ SICLUNA

**A 16-month prison sentence has been passed at Cardiff Crown Court on a man who repeatedly made threats to burn down property.**

Mark Burnett, 24, of Heol-yr-Ysgol, Tondu, admitted making threats.

Recorder Paul Lewis, QC, said "In the last three and a half years you have on three occasions been convicted of threatening to burn down property."

He said whatever dispute he was involved in there was no justification for making threats of that kind.

"You have not learnt your lesson. You once breached a suspended sentence, and went to prison as a result.

"You may not intend to burn down houses, but you intended your victims to believe that, which must have been a terrifying thing."

Only immediate custody, he said, was appropriate.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said the case involved a background of family disharmony, and Burnett had had problems in the past because of drug taking. He had once threatened to damage his mother's house.

About 11 months ago, said Mr Trigg, he threatened to burn another house down.

His counsel, Nicholas Gareth Jones, said: "In the main the offences involved idle threats, which he afterwards regretted. Clearly there was remorse."

"He has had a difficult background, a difficult upbringing. He is immature and when under stress acts in this way."

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

# *April is packed with ancient traditions…*

**APRIL is the fourth month on the Gregorian calendar, but was the second on the Julian datebook.**

It is unknown where the name of this spring month came from originally, but it could be from the Latin word aperire, which means open as the buds and other flowers grow again after the gloomy season of winter.

The Anglo-Saxons named April Eostre monarth/Eastermonarth as the festival of Easter usually falls within the month.

April 1 (as we all know) is April Fool's Day, a time which is known for its fun and practical jokes, which have been practiced for hundreds of years in our country. It began here in 1582 when Pope Gregory introduced the Gregorian calendar, and the new dates were moved forward by 10 days.

April Fool's Day became popular in the 1700s when people would do abnormal things compared to other days of the year.

April 1, some do say, is set apart from All Fools Day. But why people call it so is a mystery.

Silly antics included looking for a hen's tooth, striping paint, giving left-handed gifts like screwdrivers to right-handed friends, and playing other pranks. However, such actions should only be performed until midday, otherwise the prankster would be ridiculed with the rhyme: 'April Fool's Day is past and gone, you're the fool and I am none'.

The first Sunday in April is celebrated as Daffodil Sunday, a time when Victorians would pick these cheerful flowers from their gardens and present them to sick people at local hospitals to give them good cheer.

In the Middle Ages, April 6 was called Candle Day. Candles were placed in churches with a pin stuck in the top, and auctions would be administered with the wealthy bidding for a parcel of church land to let to the poor for a year.

The person bidding at the time when the candle burned down and the pin fell to the floor won the land, a strange custom now buried in history.

The Victorians honoured Primrose Day on April 19, as it was the Queen's favourite flower.

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday before Easter, which this year falls on April 13. In 1570, it was traditional to make pax cakes for parishioners of local churches.

Ladies of manor houses in the area served 5 shillings worth of cake and ninepenn'orth of ale to all within their church as a goodwill gesture for the year ahead.

Welsh speakers call Palm Sunday *Sul y Blodau*, which is a lullaby based on a poem by Eifion Wyn who was born in Porthmadoc (1867-1926). The custom relating to this day was to decorate the graves of loved ones with ornate flowers and decking them with garlands of rosemary, rue, crocuses, daffodils and primroses in preparation for Easter Sunday, which is the festival of the Resurrection.

The fable of freshly baked bread, made on Good Friday and handed to sailors on ships about to set off on the high seas, was believed to bring good luck for the voyage ahead.

*Welsh people had endearing customs relating to Good Friday too. Public holidays were declared on this day and no activities, such as work, were embarked upon.*

Folk would walk to church barefoot so as not to disturb the peace of the day, and long reeds were woven into the shape of a human figure and waved through the air on the journey to church.

It was customary to present friends with red coloured eggs while chanting Easter greetings on Easter Sunday. Red symbolised the blood shed by Jesus during his crucifixion.

Ancient traditions surrounding Easter include Morris dancing, performed on Easter Sunday to banish the evil spirits of winter.

Another favourite custom was performed on Easter Monday and Tuesday. Named 'lifting and heaving', it required young men to visit houses in their neighbourhood carrying a chair decorated with flowers.

They would encourage girls or ladies to sit upon the chair, and the men would lift the female three times into the air as a sign of good luck for the year ahead. The following day, the opposite was performed where the ladies would tend to the duties of the chair lifting for the men.

An intriguing legend of folklore involves spring-heeled Jack. Thought to have lived during the Victorian era, he would perform giant leaps into the air at night. He was believed to be tall and thin wearing a black cloak.

He had clawed hands with his eyes resembling red balls of fire, breathing out blue and white flames before disappearing into the night on Good Friday. ***But fact or fiction?*** *Only you can decide…*

**HAYLEY WILLIAMS**
***hayley.williams550@yahoo.com***

# CATS PROTECTION'S EGGS-TRAVAGANZA!

**CATS Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre is holding an Easter open day to encourage families and children to make the most of their school Easter holiday.**

The Bridgend adoption centre in Bryncethin is holding the special day this Saturday, April 12, from 10.30am – 3.30pm, offering a fun day out for all the family, and a chance to meet more than 100 unwanted cats in desperate need of new homes.

Activities include an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet parade and fancy dress competition, raffle, tombola, bric-a-brac, fresh cakes, barbecue, refreshments and much more. Entrance fee £1 adults, 50p children, under-threes free.

Two cats hoping for eggstra-good luck are Nina, a two-year-old friendly, affectionate neutered female cat who loves attention and Thumper, a four-year-old stunning neutered male cat. All cash raised from this event will directly help cats and kittens at the centre.

Sue Dobbs, the centre manager said: "The event promises to be brilliant fun and I hope it will be a rewarding experience for those who want to take part – especially as they will be raising much needed funds to give unwanted cats a second chance in life."

*To find out more about the Eggstravaganza, call the centre on 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk.*

***THUMPER.***

***NINA.***

*A map and directions to the branch/centre can be found at www.bridgend.cats.org.uk.*

# PEDLAR'S PEDALLERS HELP RAISE THOUSANDS FOR SPORT RELIEF...

*Pupils had made posters to welcome the cyclists.*

*PICTURED: From left to right – cyclists James Ridley, Mark Pedler, Richard Owen, Huw Jenkins and Dale Richards.*

**A GROUP of four teachers have tackled a Sport Relief challenge that saw them call into 29 schools in one day on a 70-mile cycle ride around Bridgend County Borough.**

Each school that they visited had been doing their own fundraising for Sport Relief, such as sponsored sports sessions or a 'Sport Relief Mile' on the schoolyard, and the total amount raised by the combined efforts of schools and cyclists topped £20,000!

Mynydd Cynffig Juniors teacher Mark Pedler devised the charity tour of Bridgend County Borough, which began at Caerau Primary School and ended at Litchard Primary School.

After coming up with the idea, Mark approached Llangynwyd Primary School headteacher James Ridley to sign him up to take part before they also recruited Richard Owen, from Oldcastle Primary and Dale Richards, from Litchard Primary. Mark also asked his friend Huw Jenkins if he wanted to be part of the team, as he had completed numerous charity cycle rides in the past.

Howling wind and a hail storm added to the challenge, but the group completed their epic ride in around eight hours, and Mark said: "The response from the teachers, pupils and parents when we arrived at all of the schools was phenomenal and made the day more enjoyable. The support and cheers could be heard from the streets as we approached each school and lots of them made 'tunnels' for us to ride through while clapping and shouting."

The cyclists were given one of the loudest cheers when they reached the finish line at Litchard Primary. Over 100 pupils had stayed after school, having made posters to welcome the cyclists and also enjoyed taking part in a series of sports activities that had been put on especially for the day by Bridgend county borough council's active young people department.

Mark added: "The support van, which was provided by the council's active young people department was fantastic, as was Roger Dutton from Sustrans. I'd like to thank everyone who helped with organising the challenge, along with all of the hheadteachers and teachers involved. The boys on the cycle ride had a lot of fun and I would also like to say thanks to the people who lent us bikes to complete the challenge."

If you'd like to add to the fundraising total, you can still sponsor the cycling challenge by going online at *http://my.sportrelief.com/sponsor/bridgendcycleride*

# *On the trail of the girl in a green gown*

**ONE of the National Gallery's most popular works of art came to a recent Porthcawl U3A meeting, in the form of a wonderfully illustrated and detailed talk by fellow member Geoff Henderson at the Hi-Tide.**

Jan van Eyck's masterpiece The Arnolfini Portrait, painted in 1434, has intrigued him for more than 40 years, and this remarkable picture, also known as the Girl in a Green Gown, is acknowledged as one of the great paintings of European medieval art.

Supported with 50 carefully chosen pictures, his talk on the history and mystery of the portrait took more than 90 members on a journey to appreciate its content and unravel some of the mysteries embedded in this modest sized painting.

Believed at one time to have invented oil paint, van Eyck painted on an oak panel and signed the frame, a common practice at the time, and initiated a revolutionary way of painting using light, visual realism and early three-dimensional perspective in this first known double portrait in a domestic setting.

At first, it seems an unremarkable painting of a wealthy couple standing in the reception room of their well-appointed home in Bruges, but who are they? Is it Giovanni Arnolfini? Is she his first wife Giovanna who had died, or his second wife Constanza, whom he had yet to marry? Is she pregnant, or is her green gown padded out as a fertility statement of the day? Surprisingly, there are few answers to such questions.

Generations of art historians have failed to establish who the central characters are and just what they are doing. In 1857, Joseph Crowe, an English journalist, and Giovanni Cavalcaselle, an Italian artist, discovered the picture had in 1516 been described in an inventory as 'Hernoul le Fin with his wife in a chamber'.

They connected this with a document showing an Italian merchant from Lucca near Pisa, Giovanni Arnolfini, living in Bruges – hence the title by which the picture is now known.

Prior to being bought by the National Gallery, the painting had an eventful 400 years: the couple had no children, so it passed to relatives and in the early 16th century into the Habsburg family and then to the Spanish royal collection, where one King of Spain even had it hung in his toilet.

It was appropriated by Joseph Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon, and later by the British Army, after the Battle of Vitoria in 1813.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Hay acquired it but after being almost fatally wounded at Waterloo, he tried to sell it to the Prince Regent. Eventually, in 1842 Hay sold it to the fledgling National Gallery in London for 600 guineas.

*Research continues to try to discover the secrets of the Girl in a Green Gown.*

**GARY VICTOR (Porthcawl U3A ).**

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## Age Connect advice

**AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale is holding an advice session by Cardiff and the Vale Credit Union Ltd on April 15 from 10am to 12 midday at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.**

*Free impartial and confidential advice will be available on money issues. Contact 01446 732385 for further information, or go along for a chat.*

## Diabetes talk

**THE Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK voluntary group will hold a meeting on April 15 in the Board Room at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, from 7.30pm-9pm.**

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FROM HUGH JAMES

Visit a FREE, no obligation, drop in session to discuss whether you are eligible for compensation

Katie McCraith will be in your local area to talk about:

- **Medical negligence** claims including missed fractures, birth injuries, cerebral palsy, mis-diagnosis and surgical complications.
- **Work place injuries** including factory, construction, agricultural, falling from height and fatal accidents.
- **Industrial illness** including asbestos exposure, crystalline silica exposure, mesothelioma, lung cancer, respiratory disease and deafness.

Katie will be at **Bridgend County Borough Council,Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB** on the date listed below.

Wed 16 Apr 10am - 4.30pm

No appointment is necessary, we can also arrange free telephone consultations and home visits. Contact:

Katie McCraith
T: 0800 0938240
E: katie.mccraith@hughjames.com
W: www.hughjames.com/bridgend

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# YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

## Holy Week special services

**THE Assistant Bishop, Reverend David Wilbourne, will be officiating at the following special services.**

On Palm Sunday, April 13 he will celebrate the Eucharist at 9am in St Tyfodwg's church, Glynogwr and at 10.30am St David's church, Wyndham.

On April 14, 7pm he will be at St Cein's church, Llangeinor. April 15, 7pm he will be at St David's, Wyndham. On April 16, 7.30pm he will be conducting the service at which all the members of Aberkenfig and District United Churches will be in attendance in St John's church Aberkenfig.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7pm, each parish church will celebrate its own Eucharist.

At St Bride's church, Llansantffraid Bishop David will be conducting the service which will include washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

## In rehearsal

**OGMORE Valley male voice choir is at present rehearsing for two concerts next month – as part of the European exchange programme, the concerts are a reciprocal arrangement.**

Last November, the choir flew out to Croatia and performed in a couple of concerts.

There will be two concerts in April with the choir, a choir from Latvia and two Klapa choirs from Croatia.

The first will be held at Tabernacle, Bridgend on April 24 and the second at the choir's own hall, Canolfan Bethlehem, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale on April 25.

So that visitors will feel at ease, the Ogmore Vale event will be similar to the St David's day concert titled 'Cawl a Chan', with audience participation and everyone receives a bowl of homemade cawl (soup) and Welsh cakes or bara brith.

The choir rehearses in its Canolfan Bethlehem Centre, Commercial Street, Ogmore Vale on Thursday evenings and welcomes visitors

## Tennis lessons

**PONTYCYMER Tennis Club, which is affiliated to the Lawn Tennis Association has been in existence since 1927, located behind Pontycymer Square in Lawrence Park.**

The club has a Lawn Tennis Association coach and is offering his services to local youngsters.

This facility is open to all children aged from 4 to 12 on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings between 5pm and 6pm, adults from 6pm.

For full information, telephone Glyn on 01656 870955.

## Crafty work!

**MEMBERS of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales based in Park Slip nature reserve, Tondu, recently organised a competition for schools in the area.**

The response was terrific with eight schools and over 100 children taking part who were challenged to create animals using waste either from school, or their homes such as bumblebees from bottle tops or badgers from crisp packets.

The judges had a difficult task choosing the winners from the amazing imaginatively created displays, but in the end a decision had to be made – so congratulations to Tilly (a pupil at St Mary's and St Patrick's RC primary school), Josh (a pupil at Cefn Glas primary school) and finally the sunshine group at Garth primary school.

These schools have won a membership to the Wildlife Trust and a free trip for the pupils to the reserve with education officer Cath.

Any school interested in getting involved with the Trust can contact Cath on 01656 724100 or e-mail c.lewis@welshwildlife.org.

## Easter assembly

**TYNYRHEOL primary school headteacher Martin Griffiths invites parents, friends of the school and governors to the Easter assembly on Friday, April 11 at 9.30 am.**

The assembly will be followed by an Easter bonnet parade. Last year, I had the pleasure of seeing this parade, and the effort that went into the making of bonnets by the children and parents was outstanding.

There will be raffle tickets on sale for the children's Easter eggs at 50 pence each, all proceeds will go to the pupils and there will be three prizes for each class.

## Christian Aid

**MEMBERS of Tondu Wesley Methodist church are making a big effort to raise money for the above charity which helps people in third world countries.**

On Saturday, April 12 between 12pm and 1.15pm they are inviting the public to their chapel hall to enjoy a lunch of homemade soup and bread roll.

They welcome donations for this Lenten lunch, with all money raised going to the charity.

## Singer contest

**MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir is helping to organise the Dunraven Welsh young singer of the year competition at Maesteg town hall this Saturday, April 12 at 7pm.**

Those competing in the finals are as follows:

Junior Section – Kate Layland, Naomi Jenkins, Emily Hunt, Anwen Angharad Dixon, Sebastion Waters.

Senior Section – Charlotte Skidmore, Micheala Parry, Eirlis Myfanwy Davies, Riannon Llewellyn. Reserve, Rachel Maby.

The compère for the evening will be BBC presenter Beverley Humphreys and the Gleemen will be providing the entertainment from their extensive repertoire, while the adjudicators deliberate. Cost of entry £5 at the door.

## Gardening club

**LALESTON Gardening Club invites members of the public to listen to a talk by Ivor Mace, who will be recounting details of his recent trip to China.**

The talk will take place on Monday, April 14 at 7.30pm in the Grade 2 listed 'Cliff' cottage, located adjacent to Laleston parish church. Entry will be £1 but tea and biscuits will be provided afterwards.

The club has a thriving ladies section which meets on the first and third Tuesday in the month in the same venue at 7.30pm. New members are always welcome.

## Take Note

**TAKE NOTE, Maesteg, the recently formed song and dance group, is holding a fundraising coffee morning at Maesteg town hall on Saturday, April 26 from 10am onwards, and all proceeds will go towards providing costumes etc for a concert titled 'Elemental', in July.**

Admission £3 includes a cup of coffee and two slices of cake. The group will also be providing entertainment with a song and dance routine as you dine.

## Auditions

**THE Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society, which this year is celebrating its 71st anniversary, invites prospective musicians to attend its auditions being held in the crypt of St Michael's church, Maesteg on Friday, April 25 at 6.30 pm.**

*The auditions are for The Addams Family musical and there are a number of parts available: Gomez Addams, Morticia Addams, Wednesday Addams, Pugsley Addams, Uncle Fester, Grandma Addams, Lucas Beineke, Alice Beineke and Mai Beineke.*

## NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

*A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.*

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# Quiz League round-up

**THE registration night for the next Quiz League season will almost certainly be September 8.**

Laleston Inn A will be relegated from Division 1 to 2 and Crown Inn B will be promoted from Division 2 to1. Any other promotion and/or relegations will depend on how many teams register for the new season.

We are looking for any teams who are interested in playing in the Bridgend and District Quiz League. Applications should be made to secretary, Bridgend Quiz League, (01656) 722754.

***Here are your four for thought:***

**1.** Which war poet who was born in Oswestry in 1893 was killed in action on November 4, 1918 – a week before the Armistice?

**2.** In the New Testament, which is the shortest and generally considered to be the earliest of the Four Gospels?

**3.** Which Welsh Rugby International played as a youth team goalkeeper with Bristol Rovers until the age of 14?

**4.** Which fashion chain came into being in 1964 as a small shop in a Peter Robinson store in Sheffield and acquired its name as it was located upstairs?

**A RUDGE**
**(for Quiz League)**

***answers***
*1. Wilfred Owen. 2. St Mark. 3. Ryan Jones. 4. Top Shop.*

## The Big Screen

***BIG SCREEN'S next film in Cowbridge is The Butler (Cert 12A) on Thursday, April 17, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.***

*Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker), a sharecropper's son from the South, began his working life in domestic service but eventually graduated to become a butler in the White House serving many Presidents.*

*He witnesses the dramatic social change in his time, including the Civil Rights Movement.*

*His own family gets swept up in these momentous changes. Doors open 7.10pm. Tickets £4 (available in advance from the town clerk's office, or on the door).*

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Brinsons Fairfax Estate Agents have used the GEM since August 2013 to advertise their properties to our Vale readers.
John Coggins, Head of Residential Sales, said "Since advertising in the Cowbridge GEM and Llantwit Major GEM, we have seen a noticeable increase in new instructions. The GEM coverage has helped us to establish ourselves as Estate Agents in Cowbridge".

For Cowbridge businesses requiring more information on how The GEM can help you, call Kathryn Jones on 01446 774484 or E-Mail: kathryn.jones@tindlenews.co.uk

# OSPREYS RUGBY STARS VISIT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL, PORTHCAWL

**PUPILS at St John's School, Porthcawl, were star struck when Ospreys players Matthew Dwyer and Ashley Beck visited them last week.**

**Dwyer and Beck gave up their free time to meet pupils during their games afternoon. They also joined in a rugby game between year-10 and 11 boys at the school.**

**In 2006, Ospreys' star Ryan Jones presented St John's rugby squad with their new kit and players from the club have visited the school on a number of occasions since.**

**Last October, pupils also had the opportunity to visit the Liberty Stadium, home of the Ospreys, where they not only watched the Ospreys training, but also had the chance to practise playing on the pitch.**

**Sport has a major role to play in the life of the school and many pupils play for their local teams. Dylan Jones, a year-11 pupil, has just completed a season with the Ospreys (under-16s). He also plays for Boys Clubs of Wales.**

**Ashford Thomas, also year-11, plays for Cowbridge and has just finished playing for Cardiff Blues (under-16s).**

**Mr Gatt, senior teacher and coach at the school, said: "Visits from the Ospreys players are always inspirational. Matthew and Ashley joined in a training session with our under-16s which proved to be one of the highlights of the term."**

**The school is proud of the relationship it has built up with the Ospreys and hopes to continue to strengthen its links with the Swansea-based region in years to come.**

***M Weaver***

*Matthew Dwyer and Ashley Beck with pupils from years 10 and 11.*

*ABOVE; From left to right: Matthew Dwyer, Ashford Thomas, Dylan Jones and Ashley Beck.*

PORTHCAWL STROKE CLUB NEWS

# Members learn about the glories of Bavaria

**ON March 26, David Anderson, a local Porthcawl man, shared an insight to a wonderful holiday he and his wife went to in Bavaria, Germany, the Romantische Strasse.**

He brought along slides of various places they had visited, and it was breathtaking to say the least.

He went on to tell us about a pilgrimage to the oval rococo Church of Wies situated in the Weilheim Schongau district, Bavaria, Germany, designed in the late 1740s by Dominikus Zimmermann.

It is a really magnificent church with superfine architecture, and he stated that there had been claims that in 1738, tears were seen on a dilapidated wooden figure of the scourged Saviour. Also, there were claims that people have been miraculously cured of their diseases.

He told us about King Ludwig II, a shy King who in 1886 opened his home, the Neuschwanstein Castle to the public.

Mohenschwangau Castle, the childhood residence of King Ludwig II, was build by his father Maximilian II of Bavaria.

Linerhof Palace in Schloss in Germany was the smallest of the three palaces which King Ludwig II owed, and is the only one he lived to see completed.

He showed us middle ages walled towns and charming villages, wonderful medieval architecture, high gabled houses and cobbled streets. I think it was in Rothenburg that some houses were given to tenants at very low cost and are still there to help the not-so-well-off today.

Remembering the magnificent Rothenburg palace with an elephant on the wall, chandeliers to die for, the beautiful, peaceful church in Wieskirche and the breath taking countryside, it was a joy to see.

Thank you for sharing this with us all. It certainly gave us a boost.

***Mrs Barbara Matthews***

*ABOVE: Mr David Anderson (left) with Porthcawl Stroke Club secretary, Mr Ray Cross.*


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Dogs Trust will give all help and advice for this.

She would like to live with someone who has owned Staffies before, and can live with children of around 8+. Tia really is a fab dog, and with her striking looks, you can't help but fall in love with her!

*If you have room in your home for Tia, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop along to Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12noon – 4pm every day except Monday, with late night opening til 7.30pm on Wednesdays, beginning on April 9.*

***LINDA FEAGAN***

# The 'old lady of Holly cottage Pentre Meurig' passes on... AT THE AGE OF 22!

**GEM readers have recently written in regarding the longevity of their pets and Caron Macgregor-Jones has now got in touch to tell us about Charly, the family sheep dog, the old lady of Holly cottage in Pentre Meurig.**

Caron said: "Charly, our beautiful old lady, passed away in her sleep on March 29, aged 22 years.

"She was a much-loved family companion to me, my husband Peter, and daughter Holly.

"She was born in February 1992 and well known as a Pentre Meurig character in her youth.

"She faced her advancing years with good humour and fortitude, learning to live with her occasionally noisy and badly-trained companions of the human kind without complaint.

"Charly was loved, and will be missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her."

*ABOVE: Charly lived to the venerable age of 22 years old.*

## Pupils' talent night

***THERE will be a performing arts faculty showcase at Barry Comprehensive School to raise funds for Sri Lanka this evening (Thursday, April 10)***

***The pupils are presenting 'stage and screen', songs and music from theatre and film. Doors open at 6.30pm; admission, adults £3, children £2.***

***Yesterday pupils performed excerpts from plays used for recent GCSE and A level practicals.***

# 'Mynewhair' links up with Macmillan cancer charity

**MACMILLAN Cancer Support and *mynewhair* are launching an innovative new partnership to help reach and improve the lives of people affected by cancer.**

*mynewhair*' is a charity dedicated to supporting individuals with medical hair loss.

Founded by renowned hairdresser, Trevor Sorbie MBE, it is a network of trained hair professionals who provide advice and wig cutting services to people who have lost their hair after cancer, and training for hairdressers who wish to offer the service in their salons.

From today, the two organisations will work together to signpost people affected by cancer to each other's vital services.

Anyone who comes to Macmillan seeking advice on hair and wig services will be provided with the name and contact details of their local *mynewhair* service.

In return *mynewhair* hairdressers will direct any clients in need of advice and support to Macmillan's helpline and advice services.

Trevor Sorbie said: "I am thrilled about the new partnership of *mynewhair* and Macmillan Cancer Support.

I have always had great respect and admiration for the work that Macmillan does, and now far more ladies who can benefit from the wig customisation service that *mynewhair* offers, will be made aware of it through the vast Macmillan support network."

*For further information about* mynewhair *visit www.mynewhair.org or email info@mynewhair.org. Hairdressers wishing to book a place on a* mynewhair *training course should contact the L'Oréal Academy in London on 0208 762 4200 or send an email to intacademy@uk.loreal.com. For cancer information or support, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/carers.*

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# SONGS OF THE SIXTIES AT CENTRAL CHURCH

**WHAT a harmonious evening we had for the first of Central Church, Maesteg's fundraising events, which are held throughout the year.**

Harmony, whose name is appropriate, were their usual melodic selves with Wendy Murphy their MD and pianist. The ladies in their sparkly black tops and daffodils started off the concert with a sixties medley followed by *Sing For You*, a song written by Wendy.

There were many old favourites, as well as *Sweets For My Sweet, Right Here Waiting, I'll Stand by You* and many more. There was also a beautiful duet sung by Mari Thomas and Laura Murphy: *Suo Gan*.

We were treated to another song which has been composed by one of the ladies: *Smile and Wave* by Laura Murphy.

In between the music, compere and chairlady, Shan White, kept us totally entertained and in fits of laughter with her quirky and off-the-cuff sense of humour.

To end a totally enjoyable evening, we were treated to a buffet by the ladies of Central church.

**Lynwyn Dixon**

# Man admits burglary

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

**The three were arrested, including the defendant, who accepted he was driving and at the time was disqualified. He denied being involved in the burglary.**

**In a victim impact statement, Mr Buszkiewicz said he felt betrayed by a man who knew all the details of his life and used the information to steal his property.**

**His solicitor, Derek Gooden, said: "The offences were committed at a low period in his personal life."**

# Bo's still waiting for YOU!

***The GEM has joined forces with the Dogs Trust to find suitable homes for dogs at the Bridgend rehoming centre.***

**BEAUTIFUL Bo is still here at Dogs Trust Bridgend looking for a home. She is a 9-year-old terrier, and still very young at heart – she really makes you feel like the most important person in the world when she greets you!**

She would like to be the only dog in the home (all the attention for her!). She is still active, loves her toys and a good run off lead. Bo will make a brilliant addition to an adult household, with owners who will give her time and space to settle in.

*If you can offer Bo a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend. We are open 12-4 every day except Monday, and late nights til 7.30pm on Wednesdays.*

**Linda Feagan**
*(Supporter Relations Officer Dogs Trust Bridgend)*

*BEAUTIFUL BO.*

# Post Office gets Laleston revamp

***THE Post Office this week announced plans to modernise Laleston Post Office at 27 High Street.***

*Post Office Area Network Manager for Wales, Sue Whittall, said: "I am delighted to announce news of an important investment in our service in Laleston. We know how important the Post Office service is to the community and we feel sure that our customers old and new will welcome the fresh design, modern open plan format and extended opening hours. This move will help secure Post Office services in the area for the future."*

*Post Office customers in Laleston will benefit from a new, fully modernised branch with much longer opening hours as Post Office products and services will be available from 6am – 8pm Monday to Saturday and 7am – 7pm on Sunday.*

# Dementia team scoops two awards

**ABM's Dementia Care Training Team based at Glanrhyd Hospital, has been awarded Stage 1 Practice Innovation Unit by the Welsh Centre for Practice Innovation (WCPI) for its work to improve standards in dementia care.**

They have also been highly commended in the National Social Care accolades, awarded by the Care Council for Wales.

Helen Lambert and Alison Turner, both occupational therapists, and mental health nurse Karyn Davies, make up the team. Between them they have 69 years' dementia care experience.

The award-winning training provides ABM and Bridgend County Borough Council staff with a better understanding of a person with dementia care needs and offers support to the staff involved in caring for people with dementia, a spokesperson said.

# 'People with sight loss need to be supported' – SAYS COMMISSIONER

**THE Older People's Commissioner for Wales' team discussed a range of issues, including the importance of community transport and talking messages on buses for people living with sight loss, during an event in Cardiff last week.**

Sarah Rochira's team joined the monthly meeting of the Macular Group, which meets at the Cardiff Institute for the Blind's headquarters at Womanby Street in the city.

Twenty people with macular degeneration from around Cardiff and the Vale attend the group in total, with the oldest member aged 93.

Group members talked about the importance of protecting community transport services from cuts as they provide opportunities for people living with sight loss to travel to and attend social clubs.

They also discussed the need to have talking messages on public buses to help them get around, as well as the difficulties they have experienced while trying to book an appointment with their GP. The engagement followed a visit to the Barry Blind Club, which meets every Tuesday at Jerusalem Church in the town.

Around 20 people get together to socialise, plan trips and provide support to each other, enjoying tea and cakes, along with a weekly raffle.

Sarah Rochira said: "As we grow older as a nation, we need to fundamentally rethink how we design and plan our communities. Age supportive communities and accessible environments, particularly for people with conditions such as sight loss, must now be prioritised."

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

**Our GEM Facebook winner for April 3 is:**

## Janet Allen

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

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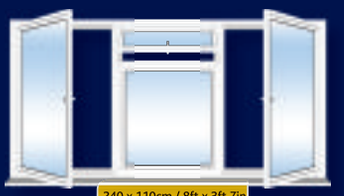

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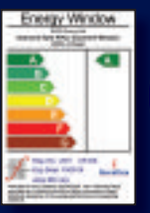

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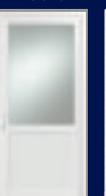

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Isobel's Oscar win

*THE lucky winner of our GEM competition, in association with Oscar's of Cowbridge, is Isobel Stevens, who chose her favourite meal of Mini Meatballs, Pasta Sauce and Garlic Bread.*

*This can now be enjoyed by Oscar's customers when it is included in their new menu.*

*• See future editions of The GEM as Isobel and her family enjoy their meal at Oscar's.*

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## NOAH WILL DIVIDE AUDIENCES

### …but Screen Talk's verdict is a positive one!

**WITH the terrible weather of February in mind, there were no doubt many who were expecting Noah and his ark to show up at some point.**

Well, two months on from that wet weather debacle, he finally shows up, albeit on the big screen, in *Noah*.

Russell Crowe plays the titular character, who is suffering from visions of an apocalyptic event; he rounds up his family and begins to build an ark with the aim of saving his family, but a few animals, and some agitated locals (led by Ray Winstone), soon mean Noah faces a battle against his environment as much as nature...

While the early part of the century saw Hollywood fully embrace the concept of the biblical epic, recent years have seen it become something of a maligned genre, with only Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* really putting its head above the parapet.

by **GARETH JAMIESON**
*Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk*

The fact that film showed there was an audience for this type of movie (albeit one perhaps steeped more in gore-based curiosity than religious fervour) means studios would be a little more keen to bring the biblical epic back.

*Noah* is most certainly epic, a grandiose effort with an astounding scale that certainly doesn't scrimp on spectacle; how much of the 'biblical' part it fills is for someone with a far greater interest in the contents of the Bible to decide.

Director Darren Aronofsky is not cut from your traditional cloth, his films a morbid, sometimes horrific look at life under a microscope, but one who has never attempted a film on such a stage as this one.

That he manages to deliver something so large but maintaining his darker touches is appealing, the film more than simply a primary coloured retelling of a story; instead it focuses as much on the psychological impact of a man receiving what he believes are visions from God and the lengths he will go to ensure these visions are made real, no matter what the cost to either his family or humanity, mixed with a dash of disaster movie panache.

While there are grandstanding moments of ambition, cameras swooping out and showing just how big an undertaking the ark is, there are also moments of Aronofsky racheting up the horror, the cities of sin lit up with hellish reds and no little peril.

This gives a little more depth to proceedings than a simple 'Noah built an ark and then it rained' story that would have felt redundant and lacking.

Aronofsky and co-writer Ari Handel aren't afraid to take a different tack from their source material in places, with one sequence in particular showing the apparent evolution of man and angels trapped as rock monsters, seemingly at odds with the biblical source material; but Aronosfky is more a man of science than a man of faith, and while this may court disfavour with some, filmically it makes for a better proposition.

The film is anchored superbly by Russell Crowe, who seems be favouring more stoic roles of late, and who manages to convey the psychological and physical pressure Noah is under with an appealing turn.

As the film moves from being a race against time drama to a piece showing the mental unravelling of a man, Crowe's performance excels.

Alongside, the performances vary – Jennifer Connelly doesn't offer much as his wife, Anthony Hopkins plays himself in make-up as Noah's grandfather, while the young triumvirate of Douglas Booth, Logan Lerman and Emma Watson offer decent turns for characters whose subplots are cleverly woven into the story.

*Noah* is certainly going to divide opinion, a polarising film whose ability to deliver will be based as much on filmic taste as religious belief, but there is much to savour in a film that is so unafraid to revel in its scope and subject matter.

**VERDICT**: A film that is likely to polarise opinion in every way, *Noah* is a entertaining blockbuster, made by a director who ploughs his own furrow in unfamiliar territory. While its theology may frustrate (and maybe even anger), its glorious bombast makes it a thrilling prospect. *Recommended*.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004).


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| 06/5/2014 | Tuesday | Abergavenny Market | £9.95 | £9.50 |
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| 24/5/2014 | Saturday | Drayton Manor (Coach Only) | £14.00 | £13.00 |
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# Row breaks out over funding in Vale schools

by TIM CHAPMAN

**THE Vale Council has refuted claims from an opposition councillor that secondary schools in the area could be facing financial problems later this year.**

Plaid Cymru councillor Chris Franks called on the council to reveal the financial situation facing schools and what he termed "the shocking disclosure that most secondary schools this year will face major financial problems".

But Vale Leader Neil Moore said Coun Franks was "confused", and Coun Elmore, the cabinet member responsible for schools, claimed it was a case of "misleading the public".

Coun Chris Franks told The GEM that it was alarming that five of the Vale secondary schools had been allocated reductions in funding.

He said: "This was not disclosed at the budget debate in the Vale Council when Labour forced through a 4.5 per cent council tax hike.

"In fact we were told that there would be additional resources due to the 'Pupil Deprivation Grant' allocated by the Welsh Government.

"This increased the amount of funding 'per relevant pupil' from £450 to £918, which for some schools meant an extra £200,000."

**JOB LOSSES?**

Coun Franks said: "Much of this extra cash was due to Plaid Cymru in the Assembly insisting that extra funds went to schools.

"I understand that despite this grant increase that one comprehensive school has lost around £200,000 even after Welsh Government additional grants.

"It is facing compulsory redundancies or at least voluntary job losses. Another option is not to replace staff but all this can have a devastating impact on the curriculum of the school. Clearly none of this will assist in providing a decent education.

"Given recent school inspection reports we should be increasing investment in education. With the second year of high council tax rises, surely schools should not be confronted with such difficulties.

"Parents need to know how the Vale intends to help their children," he insisted.

The GEM put the Coun Franks's remarks to the Vale Council.

Coun Chris Elmore, the cabinet member for children's services, said he rejected the comments.

"As Coun Franks knows, the Labour-Llantwit First administration has increased funding for schools for the second year running and it has also honoured the Welsh Government's funding commitment to schools.

"Furthermore the administration, again for the second year running, is funding education and schools higher than the Indicator Based Assessment (IBA).

"We have, therefore, prioritised funding for education and schools, but Coun Franks is misleading the public on the funding being provided by the council to schools across the Vale."

He explained: "The council has no control over pupil numbers and cannot control where children go to school. The funding, as Coun Franks knows full well, is allocated to schools on a per pupil basis.

"It is also a fact that pupil numbers in the comprehensive sector are down. It is somewhat disappointing that Coun Franks is playing politics with school funding, but the reality is that as a council we are funding schools higher than the previous administration."

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said he thought Coun Franks was "confused".

"He refers to the 'Pupil Depravation Grant' as if this grant is available to all schools.

"The grant is allocated to schools based on the actual take up of free school meals in each school.

"If there are low numbers of free school meals in a school they would not be allocated any Pupil Depravation Grant and he should be aware of that.

"I also believe that this was not a Plaid Cymru initiative but one agreed with the Welsh Labour Government and the Liberal Democrats in the Assembly.

"It is my understanding that Plaid Cymru did agree a budget with Welsh Government this year along with the Lib Dems. What Plaid brought to the table was the Intermediate Care Funding arrangements and therefore Coun Franks is again misleading people."

Coun Moore added: "In relation to a school having reduced funding, I assume he is referring to St Cyres School, where he is a governor.

"He should be aware that the new school has a lower number of pupils on role and therefore the funding formula would be reduced accordingly."

# Ty Hafan lottery winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D821.**

**£2,000:** 117496.

**The rollover, which now stands at £9,000, was not won this week.**

**£10:** 624078, 208725, 332346, 852592, 119080, 491730, 890694, 863473, 447967, 297215, 370510, 520305, 596548, 589055, 843703, 641521, 666554, 773073, 521712, 520809.

**£5:** 859209, 493489, 262660, 788403, 771974, 797840, 404630, 421452, 653302, 805808, 285571, 616259, 595543, 256093, 535765, 638589, 884548, 453001, 209914, 203085, 437883, 842775, 696734, 754526, 894913, 760243, 771124, 918931, 881318, 803555, 694787, 742473, 209837, 576735, 585342, 347517, 355889, 834223, 117601, 199325, 773787, 396140, 915574, 821812, 582226, 880583, 289136, 760374, 286488, 359809, 929300, 126106, 165923, 933898, 898343, 469878, 794294, 394532, 770209, 943.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

*For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.*

# Bridgend Male Choir (and Mike Doyle) bring the house down

**FRIDAY night at Cowbridge Leisure Centre saw a full house attendance for a variety show with a difference – for opening the entertainment were the organisers, Bridgend Male Choir, resplendent in brand new blazers, with Italian to the fore in Ernani's 'Bandits Chorus'.**

*Mike Doyle.*

*Jodi Bird (singer), Rhiannon Williams-Hale (musical director) and Stephanie Bailey (accompanist)*

*Some choristers before the start.*

This was followed with 'Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir', forever associated with the late Ryan Davies; the upbeat, 'Amen' and a favourite Welsh hymn tune, 'Gwahoddiad'.

Musical director, Rhiannon Williams-Hale can be very proud of her charges, whose eyes were transfixed on her as if they might miss the slightest thing.

Young entertainer, Jodi Bird next took to the concert stage and opened with 'Lullabye – Goodnight My Angel' setting a perfect introduction to her talent. 'Cry Me A River' followed, showing her wide voice range and lovely tone. 'The Girl from 14G' never made it to *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and Jodi's performance of the number was exceptional for a 16-year -old.

The choir returned with 'Portrait of My Love', made famous by Matt Monro and then a number by singing contemporary, Louis Armstrong with a nice arrangement of 'What A Wonderful World'.

The foot tapping, Russian folk song, 'Casatchok' came next, with some body movements in the final verse adding punch to its delivery.

The next item saw the singing talent of soloist Paul Carter, whose voice was made for 'Bui Doi' from the musical, *Miss Saigon*. Accompanist Stephanie Bailey had not seen this item until a week ago, but you would never have thought so. Her accompaniment throughout was exceptional, including the joint items with Mike Doyle.

The first of these, 'Calon Lan' saw top of the bill, Mike Doyle, join the choir on stage to a huge, rip-roaring welcome from the 500-strong audience – and boy did he deserve it. He had all those seated in raptures with his singing, humorous stories and silly faces.

Carmarthen-born Bridgend resident Mike was on top form, enjoying repartee with individual audience members, many of whom had travelled many miles to see this performance with the choir. His Tom Jones and Shirley Bassey especially were tremendous and 'Nessun Dorma' with the choir brought the whole place to its feet. He gave everything and everybody joined in 'I'm a Believer', dancing in the aisles and clapping joyfully.

Post-concert feedback has been excellent and a big thank you is extended to the people of the Vale, Cowbridge, Bridgend and surrounding areas for buying tickets. It's likely to be repeated, keep an eye on https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bridgend-Male-Choir/444632492241476

**DAVID T BURT**

# 'ManVan visits Barry

**IN partnership with Prostate Cancer UK and Movember, Tenovus has recently launched the 'ManVan', a dedicated cancer support vehicle for men with prostate or testicular cancer.**

The 'ManVan' will be coming to Barry Island on Tuesday, April 15 and will be located on the Promenade from 10am.

People can drop in for a tour of the ManVan and to find out what support is available to them throughout the day.

# High Street Easter bonnet parade

**THE High Street easter bonnet parade takes place on Saturday, April 19.**

It starts at Habanas, High Street, Barry at 10.30am for procession along High Street before returning to Habanas for the judging.

All ages and bonnets most welcome.

# Welcome to Cowbridge

*The elegant market town at the heart of the Rural Vale*

*Advertising feature created to show what Cowbridge and the surrounding area has to offer this spring.*

# TOWN OVERFLOWS WITH 'GREAT VALUE, GOOD SERVICE – AND HIGH QUALITY'

**THE recent milder weather has finally convinced people in the Vale that spring is on the way.**

It is a time of year when Cowbridge shares that sense of anticipation, because good weather really shows the town off to its best advantage.

For the coffee shops – and pubs with beer gardens – it means that customers can finally enjoy their refreshment al fresco, instead of staying indoors out of the cold wind or incessant drizzle.

Warmer weather also means that you can do your shopping the Cowbridge way. This means wandering around the town, checking out all the alleyways and discovering surprising little speciality shops.

Spend an hour browsing in Cowbridge and the hustle and bustle of a city centre or out-of-town retail park seems a world away.

The Vale Council's town centre framework – a strategy designed to give each town in the Vale its own unique selling point – sees Cowbridge as a 'destination'.

That means somewhere that visitors come to for shopping, to dine out, and as somewhere to stay, given its proximity to the capital city, as well as its place in the heart of the rural Vale.

It is, after all, the best example of a market town in Glamorgan, and the livestock market, busy every Tuesday, is a day when the rural Vale and beyond come to town – keeping it in touch with its roots.

Cowbridge tends to attract attention whenever a national newspaper or estate agent does a house price survey, as the town frequently gets a mention at the top end of the market.

However, it would be a big mistake to jump to the conclusion that shopping is in the same expensive bracket.

Competition drives all market places these days, and Cowbridge shops know they have to offer a good deal, to go along with the good service that you get when the owner of the business spends time behind the counter.

It's reassuring to know that in Cowbridge, there is still a high proportion of shops that are unique, with only a few of the usual high street suspects!

Of course, what you will get in so many cases – to back up that good deal – is products that you won't find anywhere else. Many of the owner/managers source their own products, and take great pride in doing so.

If you are looking for something distinctive, that is different from the chain store staple, then you will find it in Cowbridge – not just in one shop, but in many – and they are all contained in a comparatively small area. You can also combine your day with some quality relaxation, because the town has all you could possibly ask for when it comes to taking a rest.

*Whether you prefer a coffee shop, a pub, a restaurant, or a tapas bar – the town is overflowing with places that offer great value, good service, and high quality.*


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Every entrant also benefits from a £10 voucher for services and treatments in our Beauty Rooms. T&C apply. The winner will be chosen by The GEM. Winner will need to come to the salon for a colour patch test at least 48 hours in advance. Over 18s only due to colour and makeup application. Winner must give permission for before and after photographs to be published.

**Entry Form - Please include a photograph**

Name of nominee _____

Your name _____

Nominee contact telephone number _____

Briefly tell us why the nominee is deserving of a Fich + Ramous makeover? _____

Post your entry to Fich & Ramous Competition, The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL. Email entry to *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* or like Glamorgan GEM and comment on the competition post.

**Entries must be received by Friday 18th April 2014.**

**Our Last Winner**

**Before and After photos of Lesley Midlane!**
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- Gelish Manicure - **£28**
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# Welcome to Cowbridge

*The elegant market town at the heart of the Rural Vale*

*Advertising feature created to show what Cowbridge and the surrounding area has to offer this spring.*

## CELEBRATE YOUR LOCAL YARN SHOP

**CRAFTING has never been so popular. As increasing numbers of people turn their creative passion to needles and hooks, yarn stores are often the first port of call for novice knitters and experienced yarn crafters alike.**

**Leading publications, *Let's Get Crafting* and *Let's Knit* have now joined forces with yarn stores across Britain to launch the Love Your Yarn Shop campaign.**

**One of the outlets taking part is La Mercerie, whose owner Jean Tait says: "Knitting and crochet are more popular than ever, and this campaign is the perfect way in which to celebrate all those stores which stock yarn and needles, hooks and patterns, as well as offering crafters advice and inspiration.**

**"Our shop has been selling yarn and haberdashery for four years, and we really have noticed an increased number of people coming into the shop and asking about crochet and knitting.**

**" We are always happy to offer advice, and I think our customers really appreciate this aspect of visiting their local store."**

**The campaign will conclude with Yarn Shop Day on May 3, which will see retailers putting on a series of events.**

**For more information, visit www.letsknit.co.uk.**

***La Mercerie will be featuring the work of two local ladies, Lynne Tuck who knits and crochets beautiful gossamer fine shawls and tablecloths; and Cat Thomas, who recently had her first book published, 'Fifty Pincushions to Knit and Crochet'.***


La Mercerie
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## Children's week of woolly jumping!

**CHILDREN and staff at Fun Foundations Day Nursery took part in a week of fundraising.**

The theme for the week was 'Woolly Jumpers', so everybody wore a variety of woolly jumpers, scarfs and hats and there were lots of 'jumping' activities taking place throughout the nursery.

Parents sponsored their children throughout the week and staff took part in a 'sheep stake' – the total raised was £449! This was only made possible with the help of Jane Griffiths, the charity events coordinator at Fun Foundation, and the kind generosity of all the parents who sponsored their child.

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# Welcome to Cowbridge

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## A closer look at Cowbridge...

*ABOVE: Cowbridge is a historical town world famous for its Physic Garden which has welcomed royal visitors.*

*The town is famed for its high street.*

## Delicatessen gears up for Easter!

**ON the Cowbridge High Street, the wonderfully-named Elephant & Bun delicatessen is gearing up for Easter.**

Director Jack Farrington has recently returned from the national Deli and Farm Shop exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham with some great new gift ideas, including grow your own mushroom kits and make your own cheese kits.

He said: "The show was exceptional and really gives delis such as ours a host of new ideas that help keep the shop fresh and interesting for existing and new customers.

"We have put a mushroom block in the window so that customers can watch them grow over the coming weeks and watch as we use the crop in our quiches, which are made fresh daily.

"We are also looking to stock some new independently-produced Welsh bottled beers to add to our current range of Otley, Purple Moose and Wrexham Lager."

The deli has also stocked up for Easter on the exquisite range of kitchen pottery by Rupert Blamire, who has developed a big following.

With more than 30 Welsh and continental cheeses to choose from, Jack's message is clear: "The High Street has something to offer for discerning shoppers this Easter. Pop in and I'll talk through our cheeses and encourage you to try before you buy."

## Daisy & Jack bring the parties to you

**DAISY & JACK'S 'Mummy and Me' was a great afternoon.**

**The fashion show saw the models strutting their stuff in labels such as Scotch Shrunk and R'Belle, Ralph Lauren, I Love Gorgeous, No Added Sugar and IKKS.**

**Bubbles and goodie bags were enjoyed by our guests and our fab raffle, featuring prizes from Stella & Dot and Daisy & Jack, raised £70 for Ty Hafan, our chosen charity.**

**Our fashion parade up the length of the High Street was huge fun, and we even took it into a couple of stores and restaurants.**

**If you can't come to the party, Daisy & Jack will bring it to you!**

**ND**


The pencil case

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# Welcome to Cowbridge

*The elegant market town at the heart of the Rural Vale*

## Cowbridge's newest shop 'The Pencil Case' opens

**THERE was a real buzz on Eastgate recently when Cowbridge's newest shop was opened in a blaze of bright colours!**

The Pencil Case sells a fabulous range of fun and stylish stationery, alongside local school uniform and dancewear for Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Y Bont Faen Primary School, St David's C/W Primary School in Colwinston, The Vale School of Dance and The Moya Vahey School of Russian Classical Ballet.

Created by Colwinston resident and mum of two, Sally Stephenson, The Pencil Case was developed mainly with primary and secondary school-aged children in mind.

She explained: "I love stationery, as do my two young children and their friends, but there was nowhere in Cowbridge selling stylish pens and notebooks for adults and pocket money priced stationery for children – we had to go all the way into Cardiff.

"When I asked around, I realised that there was a real opportunity to open a lovely, independent stationery shop – something I have always wanted to do."

When Jensen Sports decided to close down at Christmas, it seemed logical to take over the supply of local school uniform and dancewear and offer this alongside the new stationery range.

The launch of The Pencil Case has been eagerly anticipated by many, especially those who had watched with interest as the shop was transformed over the last few weeks.

Judging by the large number of people who attended the grand opening, there is clearly a need for stylish stationery, and local parents are delighted that school uniform and dancewear is still conveniently available in the centre of Cowbridge.

*The Pencil Case is open from Monday to Saturday at 50 Eastgate – follow on Facebook at ThePencilCaseCowbridge and on Twitter at @ThePencilCaseCo.*

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# Win family tickets to Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy!

***THE GEM has joined forces with Feld Entertainment, producers of Disney On Ice, to give four lucky families the perfect gift – tickets to the brand new show, Worlds of Fantasy.***

***Showing at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena from April 23-27, the on-ice excitement begins when Mickey Mouse embarks on an adventurous journey with Minnie Mouse to uncover each world of fantasy, but the plan goes awry when their cherry red roadster unexpectedly breaks down.***

***Although Donald Duck and Goofy try, it takes the assistance of the coolest Cars on the ice to get the pistons firing again.***

***Mickey and Minnie's 'road trip' continues by diving into Ariel's fluorescent, coral-covered world in The Little Mermaid and into the colourful fantasy land of Disney's Fairies for the Tinkerbell segment.***

***Winners will enjoy the perfect family outing, revelling in all of the classic Disney moments at this mesmerizing show.***

***For the chance to win tickets for a family of four to the show, answer the following question:***

- *Who will be setting out on an adventurous journey?*

***Entries on a postcard to: 'Disney competition', The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL; or email to: gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk (Please include your full contact details).***

***Closing date is April 17. Normal competition rules apply and no correspondence will be entered into.***

***For more information about Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Fantasy, visit www.disneyonice.co.uk***

# Live a life of adventure

## by MARIA LEIJERSTAM

*DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.*

*Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.*

### Set your goals!

**EVERYONE has days where motivation is lacking. The weather is bad, time is short or you just can't make yourself take that first step to doing something physical. Well, this is where having a goal will help.**

As you roll out of bed one morning this week, to a house full of youngsters running around and demanding more from you, how about this? On your way home from the school run, stop off at Cowbridge Common. Pull out a pair of trainers for you and one for your child and lay down a challenge to see who can run one lap of the common the fastest.

It's as simple as that and at only 1.2 kilometres, will take you less than ten minutes. Don't worry about getting a little dirty, it's all part of the adventure.

It's guaranteed to lift your spirit as well as teach your child the importance of setting targets and experiencing competition. Adventure is about doing something relatively unplanned and slightly out of your comfort zone so don't wait until tomorrow, do it today.

Set yourself the challenge and let us know how you got on, log onto www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure for full details.

During my time in Antarctica I learned the importance of goal setting when I was suffering from knee pain. It would have been very easy to give up, but because I had a very definite target, it spurred me on to continue.

*Make sure you join me next week for more adventures.*

Have you heard of Strava? It's a brilliant free social fitness app that allows you to share your adventures with others.

**FOOTNOTE:**

***This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.***

***Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.***

***The GEM newspaper and Multisport Ltd are not responsible or liable, directly, indirectly or consequentially, for ANY form of damages whatsoever resulting from the use (or misuse) of information contained in or implied by the column.***

# What's on / in brief

### Spring fayre

**AGE CONNECT Cardiff and Vale Senior Health shop are holding a spring fayre at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on April 17 at 10am-12pm. Admission free. Contact 01446 732385 for details).**

### Way of the Cross

**THE Good Friday Walk of Witness will be held on Friday April 18 and at the Parade Gardens (opposite the Ship Hotel), Barry at 12 noon, hoping to reach the final station at King's Square about 1.30pm.**

Station one: Parade Gardens, 'Gethsemane', read by Rev Clive Jones; Station two: Barry Island railway station, 'Trial before Pilate,' address by Fr Ben Andrews; Station three: One Stop Store, 'Simon of Cyrene' by Fr Pat O'Gorman; Station four: AG Adams Funeral Home, 'Women of Jerusalem,' read by Rev Peter Taylor; the final station: King's Square, 'Crucifixion', read by Mike Holmes.

Thirty three white balloons will be released at the Square after the final reading.

### Easter celebration

**RESIDENTS are invited to St Lawrence Church, Fort Road, Lavernock for Easter celebration on Sunday, April 20 at 3pm.**

The worship will be led by Rev Margaret Stark and the organist will be Anne Thomas. Parking available on the left of Fort Road just before the church. For further information, telephone 02920 701303.

# NEW GUIDES ARE ENROLLED

**A COLOURFUL ceremony was held in the New Jerusalem Church Hall to mark the enrolment of the newest members of Girlguiding in Barry.**

Jayne Newcombe, Division Commissioner, officially welcomed Kara, Sofia, Meghan, Ruby, Sofia, Beth, Beatrice, Mika, Kayleigh into the 1st Barry Rainbows unit at the ceremony, held recently in front of proud parents, relatives and friends.

Sarah Thomas, the unit leader, said: "Being a Rainbow is all about learning, developing self-confidence, building friendships and of course, having lots of fun! We have 11 girls currently in the unit and they all really enjoy the weekly meetings."

*To join as a girl or adult volunteer, contact Jayne Newcombe on 01446 409282 or www.girlguiding.or.uk.*

# Barrivale bridge results

**LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, April 1:**

1st Peter Millar & Mark Roderick 59.9%; 2nd Bryn Gough & Dave Reed 57.81%; 3rd Dave Thomas & Tom Kendrick 57.29%. Bryn & Dave won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale, if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

**MB**

# The Life and Times of a Liberated Woman
## by NANCY DAVIDGE

**PART 4**

**AS soon as war was declared, all windows had to be covered to prevent even the smallest chink of light being seen from enemy planes.**

All transport had hoods placed over headlights. My eldest sister was also an air raid warden so we would, of course, patrol the streets of our area of Canton together.

One evening during a raid, my sister's helmet sustained a large dent, caused by shrapnel from our own artillery.

Following a particularly heavy raid, my sister saw flames rising from the middle of the road.

Realising a friend living close to the ruptured pipe was in danger, my sister was throwing dust and stones onto the flames when a policeman warned her to get away as it could explode if it was connected to a gas main.

Some weeks later, my sister was called to a secret meeting to be told the King and Queen would be visiting Canton and other areas of Cardiff and she would be presented to them for her bravery.

I thought it was rather unfair not to be included in the presentation!

In 1939, clothes and food rationing was brought in. A week's ration was 2 oz of tea, 8 oz sugar, 4 oz jam, 3 oz sweets, 2 oz lard, 2 oz butter, 4 oz cheese, 4 oz bacon, 3/4 lb meat, one egg.

One night in 1941, a devastating raid on Cardiff took place, with houses and business premises razed to the ground.

My sister and I had been out on patrol extinguishing so many incendiary bombs and decided to go into the house to find something to eat and drink.

Seconds later, we had gone into the understairs pantry when the whole house seemed to shake to its foundations.

My sister's first thought was for the safety of her young daughter, who would shelter with her neighbour when there was an air raid.

When we emerged from the house at the first light of dawn, we were greeted by utter devastation.

We knew a house just 50 yards away had been full of mourners following a family funeral. It was now a massive mound of rubble.

We stood listening for the faintest sound hoping that perhaps someone had survived.

It was three days later when the messenger boy from our warden's post heard a faint whimper and a small boy was rescued.

It was now time to become involved in full-time war work.

I thought I would join the Wrens and become a despatch rider, carrying urgent and secret messages – but I was too young.

I then attended college every evening for a month to become a fully-fledged engineer, which meant I would be working to one thousandth of an inch on massive gun barrels; I continued my training in the factory school.

*The long hours working in the artificial light were taking their toll on my health, but it would take some time before I obtained my release.*

***(To be continued.)***

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*Your local correspondent is*
***NANCY DAVIDGE***
*"Tynewydd", Llangan.*
*(01656) 860303*
**TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL**

### Mystery notices

**NOTICES are appearing in two areas of Llangan, suggesting the possibility of a further influx of travellers.**

The land where notices have appeared on the gates was until recently farmed by a local farmer, now retired.

Is the land owner in favour of dozens of travellers taking possession of this good fertile land, and the upheaval this would entail, with the movement of vehicles and caravans?

### Saron service

**REV David Couldrick will conduct the service at Saron Chapel, Treoes which will take place on Sunday, April 13 at 3pm. I understand an important discussion will take place and be voted upon.**

### Burial service

**LLANGAN'S school choir will take part in the burial service for skeletons discovered during the restoration of the old schoolroom at St Canna's, at 1pm on Friday, May 2.**

### *Planning*

*MR Gareth Lloyd, Hill House, St Mary Hill – erection of a single wind turbine with a maximum blade height of 77 metres, along with a maximum blade height of 77 metres and accompanying access track.*

# Pupils' moving account of their chilling visit to Auschwitz death camp

*This report was written by **Madeleine Dabernig** (16), **Tabitha Carrington** (16), **Richard Price** (17) and **Peter Sloggett** (17), who are all students at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.*

**ON Wednesday, February 19, 200 students aged 16–18 from Wales, were given the opportunity to experience at first-hand the place where an estimated 1.1 million people were killed – at Auschwitz Concentration Camp.**

At 3am we woke up, drove to Cardiff Airport, and took the three-hour plane journey to Krakow, Poland. It was cold. We were dressed in walking boots, thick jeans, three t-shirts, two jackets, a waterproof coat, a scarf, a hat and gloves.

Our tour guide even informed us that we were experiencing a mild winter for Poland, yet that didn't stop us from shivering. But who were we to complain when hundreds of thousands of Jews were forced not only to be outside in these conditions wearing single layers but to be made to work brutal hours with very little food and very little sleep.

If you stopped, if you fainted from exhaustion, if you stole an extra mouthful of food, you would be punished, beaten, humiliated, murdered.

Greeting us at the gates of Auschwitz I were the infamous words 'Arbeit Macht Frei' (Work Will Set You Free): a terribly ironic and cruel message for the prisoners. But in a way, many probably did find freedom and peace in death.

In the Memorial Museum at Auschwitz I, we were truly shocked to see large rooms overflowing with pots and pans, glasses, prosthetic limbs, clothes, suitcases labelled with family names and return addresses and, worst of all, piles upon piles of human hair.

*The vast scale of the Holocaust became most evident for us at this point, as all these belongings we saw were only a small proportion of what remained of so many lives.*

It was disturbing to think that to the Nazis, these belongings were more valuable than the people who owned them.

Before leaving the first camp Auschwitz I, we saw the last remaining gas chamber in the whole of Auschwitz. This was the most sobering part of our visit as we were standing inside the very same place that not so long ago, Jews and other 'undesirables' were ruthlessly executed.

Next we were escorted to Auschwitz II, better known by its German name Auschwitz-Birkenau, which was worlds apart from Auschwitz I in both size and structure.

*This camp was designed specifically to wipe out an entire race. We saw re-creations of the huts where prisoners would be kept like cattle, thousands dying from disease, starvation and exhaustion.*

We were told that if we held a minute's silence for every person killed in Auschwitz we would have to be silent for three and a half years.

Yet, despite everything they had to suffer, their faith in God lived on. Their belief became a source of hope. And still to this day, Jewish people, along with so many others, are paying their respects.

Before we left Auschwitz-Birkenau, we took part in an inspiring memorial service led by Rabbi Barry Marcus.

Poems were read and heartrending prayers sung in Hebrew rang out into the darkness. We felt a sense of realisation about how evil humanity can be as we stood there remembering the horrendous crimes that were committed.

However, after we had scattered hundreds of lit candles across the train tracks of Auschwitz, the flicker of lights became a symbol of the respect, devotion and love that humanity can possess too.

Seventy years later, people are still coming to Auschwitz to remember and we think that is an incredible thing.

We were offered this rare opportunity to experience first-hand the death camp Auschwitz and the atrocious effects that genocide has on humanity through the valuable work of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The aims of this charity are to teach the history of the Holocaust, to keep alive the memory of those who perished and to teach the lessons of the Holocaust today.

As part of Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, we were picked to become ambassadors along with hundreds of other young people across the country, to try and help fulfil these aims.

We learned so much from our visit and think it is vital to spread the important message of how the lessons of the Holocaust are still relevant to society today.

*The statistics of the Holocaust are impersonal. Behind the six million who perished were individuals who lived life across Europe and were part of a community.*

When we speak of loss, we also mean loss of culture, customs and ideas as well as people. There is always a risk of generalising about the Holocaust and it is shocking to think that we only know a small percentage of the individual stories and testimonies that came from it.

In today's society, it is too easy to forget: forget to walk the dog, forget your dad's birthday, forget to charge your phone. Events from over seventy years ago can all too easily be lost in time.

It's difficult to comprehend the atrocities that happened in concentration camps when we are wrapped up in our own world. But we must try.

*"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."* – George Santayana, philosopher.

This was one of the main lessons we learned from the trip. Through recognising the many injustices of the Holocaust, we can all individually strive for a better world in the hope that something similar will never happen again.

We should endeavour to challenge acts of prejudice or discrimination in both our communities and society at large, even when this may be unpopular or inconvenient.

*The Holocaust is a prime example of how prejudices can grow into something as devastating as genocide.*

Currently, we are working on our 'Next Steps' project in order to share our experience with others. We have been doing presentations in our school on the subject of the Holocaust, teaching the background and sharing individual stories of both survivors and persecutors.

*We feel very privileged to have been able to go on this trip and we are extremely grateful to the Holocaust Educational Trust for all their work.*

***To donate to the Trust or learn more about the Holocaust, please visit their website: http://www.het.org.uk/.***

# Rotarians' insight into the Noah's Ark Appeal

**AT last Thursday's dining night, Dinas Powys Rotary Club welcomed Mr Lindsay Doyle, a volunteer fundraiser for the Noah's Ark Appeal, to address members and partners on the work and aims of the appeal.**

Lindsay said: "It has been my pleasure to have been involved with the Noah's Ark Appeal for over 10 years, as part of the volunteer fundraising team.

"Since then, through the generosity of the Welsh people from all walks of life, we have witnessed the opening of the first phase of the children's hospital.

"Phase two is under construction, but we now need to equip it with modern, child friendly, clinical technology such as an MRI scanner costing £1.5million and the proceeds raised from the Dinas Powys Rotary Club's Vale of Glamorgan Classic car Show in May will be donated to this cause, for which I thank you all".

Club president Anthony Stevens thanked Lindsay for a very interesting talk and looked forward to the club's support of the appeal.

## *Teddy bears*

***ALL Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, is holding a teddy bear zip wire event on Saturday, April 12 at 2pm in the church grounds and church hall.***

***Bring along your favourite teddy or teddies and watch them slide down the side of the church; £1 per teddy to enter.***

# 'Lights will go out' to remember Great War

*PICTURED: Ade Pitman's grandad, Percy Pitman, taken in what is today Afghanistan, in 1915. Percy Pitman is seen holding the sign (centre, on left)*

**THE lights will go out at Holton Road Church on August 4 to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, the world's most costly conflict and one which continues to affect our lives today.**

Barry at War chair, Ade Pitman, explained the significance of this event saying: "To mark the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, candlelit vigils will be held across Britain, and cathedrals near to the battlefields, to mirror a service that took place in Westminster Abbey 100 years before.

"Candles will be extinguished to echo a remark of the (then) Foreign Secretary Viscount Edward Grey, who said on the outbreak of the Great War, 'The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our time.'

"For many this was true, as by the following Christmas, thousands of people had died on the battlefields and the high seas.

With Barry and the rural Vale having lost so many of its men-folk during the Great War, it is right that we remember and mark the centenary of this momentous day in the world's history, and work to explain its significance to younger generations by remembering the price that was paid by all involved, and how this has shaped the world in which we live today.

"Barry at War intends to ensure that Barry and the Vale are at the forefront of the UK's Great War commemoration programme."

Ade continued: "I admit to not being an expert on the Great War, but thankfully Barry is blessed with several historians who are.

"However, in the relatively short time that I have been involved in helping to promote this aspect of our wartime heritage, I can't help but see why this war had such an effect on our society.

"Here in Glamorgan, we are blessed with some very capable female political leaders, and yet before the Great War women did not even have a vote.

"This was because most of the men were fighting, so women carried out 'men's work' during the war. This greatly advanced the Suffragette movement's drive towards equality for women.

"I have also learned recently that Barry was home to several wartime hospitals towards the end of the Great War, with hundreds of wounded troops recovering in the town. This was unsurprising as the casualty figures from this period were horrific.

"For example, the British Army suffered almost twice as many casualties on the first day of the Battle of the Somme as there were people living in Barry at the time. Just think of how that affected the communities across Glamorgan.

"Over 700 of Barry's men never returned from the war, and the same proportion of men failed to return to the villages around Glamorgan. This is why most villages in the county have war memorials.

"Because of this a generation of women could not find husbands; simply because there weren't enough men around following the Great War.

"These are some of the reasons why we should strive to remember the Great War; not just for those who fought, and who we will never know, but for the legacy that was left for today's society. This is why I am seeking to create a Glamorgan Great War Centenary Centre in Barry.

"Barry at War group will also be holding a display about Barry and the Vale during the Great War in Barry library in the run up to the centenary of its outbreak, and this year's Barry Wartime Weekend will also feature a Great War living history encampment, complete with cavalry unit. The Barry Wartime Weekend will take place on the weekend of August 30-31, almost 100 years to the day that my grandfather left home to play his part in it."

*The 'Lights going out' commemorative service will take place at Holton Road Church, Barry from 7pm on August 4. The last candle will be extinguished at 9pm. For more details contact Rev Ben Andrews on 01446 406690.*

# URGENT POSSESSION PROCEDURE UPDATE

***NEWBOLD Solicitors would like to remind all landlords and agents that from April 22, the court fee for all possession claims is due to increase very significantly, as a result of the Civil Procedure Fees (Amendment) Order 2014.***

*There are currently two types of procedures that can be followed to obtain possession of a property.*

*The normal possession procedure mostly commonly used where the landlord wishes to gain possession of the property and a money claim for rent arrears.*

*This is often referred to as the 'Section 8 Route". The Court fee for this application is increasing by 150% from £100 (for an online application) to £250.*

*The accelerated possession procedure is used where the landlord simply wishes to obtain possession of the property. This is often referred to as the 'Section 21 Route".*

*The court fee for this application is increasing by 60 per cent from £175 to £280.*

*At Newbold Solicitors we understand obtaining possession of a property can be costly, stressful and time is always of the essence.*

*We urge all landlords and agents to contact us to find out more about issuing possession proceedings before the deadline and to avoid a large increase to the cost of proceedings.*

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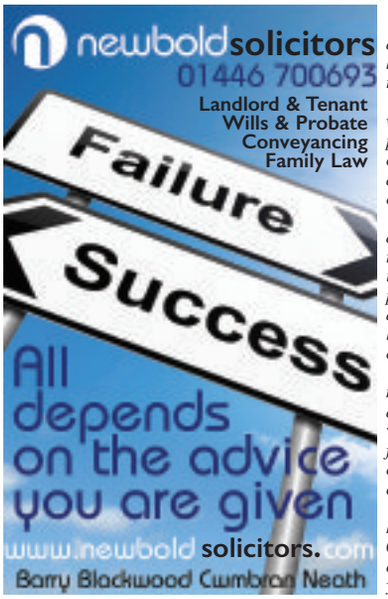
*Call our dedicated housing department on 0330 123 11 31 to find out how we can help you.*

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# 'Visit the graves of Great War fallen' – MP URGES

**THE MP for Bridgend, Madeleine Moon, is urging local schools and constituents to visit their local Commonwealth war graves, to gain a greater understanding of the scale and magnitude of the Great War and the impact that it has had on today's society.**

**The call follows a national initiative spearheaded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), the All-Party Parliamentary War Heritage Group and the 'In From The Cold Project' that maps over 300,000 Commonwealth war dead by each Parliamentary constituency.**

**The initiative is supported the MP who has been sharing information with community councils about the location of war graves in their area and visited Commonwealth war graves across the constituency**

**"The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War is a time, not just for reflection and commemoration but also an opportunity to educate a new generation of young people about the extraordinary events of a 100 years ago and to bring to life some of the personal stories from this remarkable time," said Madeleine.**

**"Working with local groups and students gives us all an opportunity to explore how we would like to secure this legacy for generations to come. Visiting the graves of the fallen is a simple but profoundly important way to commemorate the outbreak of the war."**

**Deirdre Mills, CWGC's Director of UK Area states that: "The centenary is an opportune time for us to re-engage and connect with local communities and young people, and explain how the people who are buried in our graves got to be there, who they were, and where they were from.**

**"More than 300,000 Commonwealth servicemen and women are commemorated in the UK. Many died in military hospitals whilst being treated for their wounds or fell victim to the flu pandemic as the conflict drew to a close.**

**"Their graves reflect both the local impact of the war but also its wider historical significance.**

**"To highlight some of the personal stories of those who are buried or commemorated in our graves, we are installing over 100 visitor information panels throughout the UK during the Centenary. The panels incorporate QR codes which, when scanned with the latest smartphone technology enable visitors to read these stories and understand the historical context."**

**Working with schools to bring this extraordinary period of history alive for students , the CWGC is in May launching a Local War Graves Visits programme in six locations – Cambridge, Oxford, Cannock Chase, Southampton, Plymouth and Cardiff – with plans to extend this to other parts of the UK later in the year.**

**Teachers will be able to take advantage of the CWGC's network of vetted and fully trained volunteers to take them around CWGC sites and war graves, highlight key hotspots, and assist them with lesson planning.**

**At the Education Show in mid-March, CWGC launched an online Virtual Cemetery education portal that provides schools and teachers with a comprehensive range of resources and support materials linked to the graves and memorials in their home town.**

**The virtual cemetery website www.cwgc-virtual-cemetery.org is an interactive tool which enables pupils and teachers to view images and videos, learn more about CWGC's work across the globe, and – most importantly – the people that are commemorated in its cemeteries and memorials.**

**The virtual cemetery resource has been designed to encourage debate and spark pupils' interest in thinking about the centenary of the First World War and the different ways in which everyone can remember the servicemen and women who gave their lives in the conflict.**

**The website also supports teachers with curriculum notes, lesson plans and suggestions for classroom activities.**

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# Encourage children to garden this Easter

by HANNAH STEPHENSON

**IF the weather is fine this Easter (and it's beginning to look like it might be) many parents will be wanting to sort out their gardens – and hopefully encourage their children to give them a hand along the way.**

Certainly, with National Gardening Week (April 14-20) on its way too – a scheme launched three years ago by the Royal Horticultural Society to celebrate gardening with nationwide events – there really is no excuse not to get your little ones outdoors.

Andrea Fowler, the horticultural educator at RHS Garden Wisley, points out that attracting wildlife, seed-sowing and vegetable-growing are all sources of inspiration to young gardeners.

"Spring is definitely here so we can be seed-sowing and planting in earnest. If you just want to get the children outside do an Easter egg hunt in the garden – there are also Easter holiday activities at all four RHS gardens over the holidays.

"If you're sowing seeds with children, sow something that's going to spark their imagination. Plant flower seeds which children will be excited about, like calendula – there's a calendula called 'Porcupine' which is an extra spiky pot marigold. There's also cornflower 'Blue Boy' and sunflowers, which everyone loves.

"Nasturtiums are fantastic and make great container plants so you don't need to have a huge garden, you can just grow them in a window box. Herbs are also great.

"If you're growing veg with children, have a go with 'Pink Fir Apple' potatoes (a maincrop variety with knobbly pink skinned tubers of butter yellow, waxy flesh) or purple potatoes, purple beans and yellow tomatoes, which will get them interested."

Attracting wildlife into the garden will also engage the children, so help them build a mini-beast hotel (although autumn can be a better time to do this when wildlife is looking to hibernate).

A simple bug hotel can be made from a collection of hollow stems packed into a plastic bottle with the end cut off.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

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## iPAD GIFT OFFERS WINDOW FOR LEARNING AT COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE

Cowbridge Comprehensive School students have taken delivery of a brand new iPad as part of a local business' scheme to invest in IT for schools.

Securahome, which has showrooms in Ewenny Garden Centre Bridgend and Gorseinon, Swansea, is giving away iPads to schools across Wales as part of its 20th anniversary celebrations.

The iPad was presented to assistant head Jonathan Ling, who explained the how tablet computers are used to aid learning in the school.

"iPads are used across the curriculum, for subjects from English through to Chemistry," he said. "We have subject specific, educational apps on them as well as books for children to read in the library, teachers also use them to write their subject blogs, so this donation will get good use!"

Securahome sales and marketing manager Nigel Hocking (far left) presents an iPad to assistant head Jonathan Ling and pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Securahome, which specialises in the installation of orangeries, conservatories, windows and doors, launched the scheme to mark its two-decades of business.

The company's MD Jason Jenkins said: "We've had a large number of referrals and recommendations from customers over our 20 years in business and so wanted to give something back to say 'thank you'."

"As a father I know how important and useful IT is for learning, so donating iPads to schools seemed to be a natural way of giving something back to the community that has supported us so well."

Under the scheme, customers who are making an enquiry or referral can nominate a school to receive an iPad. Each month, Securahome will hold a draw of the names submitted, with the winner receiving an iPad.

Mr Ling added: "We are very pleased to be supporting this scheme. It is good to see a local business invest in the community in this way."

The scheme was also commended by Goverton AM and Minister for Science, Enterprise and Transport Edwina Hart at its launch earlier this month.

Mrs Hart said: "Good companies accept their corporate social responsibility, and it's wonderful to see someone who has built a successful business from scratch take this seriously and give something back to the community."

MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

MAKING YOUR HOUSE A HOME

# Get the children into the garden and see what fun you can have...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

**Several hotels could be placed in different positions such as on the ground among vegetation, fixed on top of a post, next to a wall, half way up a hedge, in a tree, under a bird table.**

**Grander bug hotels can be made by piling up a variety of materials into a tower, or making a wooden frame with a series of compartments and packing these with different fillings.**

**Remember rotting wood is both a home and source of food for various beetle grubs and a vast army of other mini-beasts, which in turn make a tasty snack for birds, hedgehogs and frogs, so leave an area of the garden wild and build a log pile with the children.**

**Andrea said: "Children also love worms. If you are working in the garden let them dig with a trowel and they'll love it. But don't let them chop the worms in half."**

**You could also help your children make a bird cake, using fat, good quality wild birdseed, raisins, peanuts and grated cheese. Just leave the fat in a warm place to soften, put the other ingredients into a bowl, chop the fat into small pieces and add to the mixture, mixing it together using fingers or a spoon.**

**Put the mixture into a yoghurt pot to hang from your bird table or roll into balls to place on it.**

**Andrea stressed: "We need to get the next generation to be inspired by gardening."**

**For more information about National Gardening Week events, go to *www.nationalgardeningweek.org.uk***


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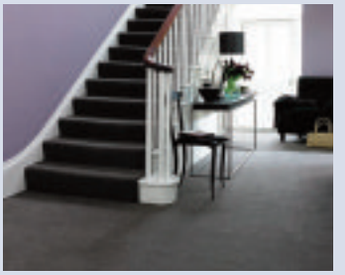

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*Llandow Carpet Studio has recently opened in the Vale.*

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# Gardening guru's plans for flower show!

**TV gardening guru Alan Titchmarsh is looking forward to getting his hands dirty at RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year, writes HANNAH STEPHENSON.**

Instead of wearing a sharp suit to present the show, for the first time in 30 years, he will be wearing a pair of gloves and designing a garden instead.

Obviously, there's a substantial chance it will be rather good, too – not only is Titchmarsh one of the country's best-known gardening presenters, but back in 1985, when Titchmarsh last designed a garden at the prestigious Chelsea Shiow, he was awarded an RHS Gold Medal for his Country Kitchen garden.

He will also be joining forces with another RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner, Kate Gould, to create From The Moors To The Sea – a celebration of 50 years of the RHS Britain in Bloom campaign, to represent how 300,000 volunteers help to make Britain bloom and explore Alan's relationship with horticulture through his life.

"It's 50 years since I started work as an apprentice, so I thought I could either do a 1960s-style garden through to the 21st century, but the sixties were a bit dull, all rose beds and lawns.

"So I thought, why don't I demonstrate where I first started, which was the Yorkshire moors, up to where I garden now, on the coast on the Isle of Wight?

"So we will be sloping from moorland at the back, with dry stone walls, coming down to a seaside garden at the front. It's 50 years of 'my journey', to use the X-Factor phrase.

"It's also showing the British Isles and its variety. Being a cool temperate set of islands, the range we can grow is incredibly wide and this will show the richness of the British Isles."

He'll be featuring pines, heathers and birches from the moorland, through wild flowers, down to seaside plants including echiums and cabbage palms. It will be a 10m by 15m microcosm of British gardens and landscapes.

It sounds great, but how does Titchmarsh feel about not presenting the Chelsea coverage for the first time in 30 years?

Last year Titchmarsh announced he was stepping down from the BBC's coverage of Chelsea after programme-makers offered him a more 'limited' role, although he remains RHS vice president and first ambassador.

"I feel wonderful," he insists. "I'm putting a show garden together – I've done it before and I love doing it. It's technically an exhibit but will look like a show garden. It's not being judged but the same criteria and standard of finish will have to be there."

"I've moved on," he continues. "There was disappointment but it's gone, I'm over it. There's no point in dwelling on things."

It's all part of a new beginning for Titchmarsh, who began his career as that apprentice for Ilkley Council, before becoming the face of BBC2's Gardeners' World for six years until 2002.

He also presented Ground Force, How To Be A Gardener and several natural history series, and has written a number of bestselling novels and has a regular slot on Classic FM.

He's had eight years presenting an afternoon chat show too, though this is also ending after its last run in autumn.

"It's better to stop doing something when you're still regarded as being successful, while people are still watching, rather than it going off the boil. It will be my 15th series in the autumn, that's eight years.

"It's every day. Jonathan Ross and Graham Norton do one a week. I do five. I thought, let's stop while it's doing well."

He's certainly got enough else to keep him occupied too, with forthcoming TV projects including a two-parter about the gardens of Buckingham Palace, out in December, a new series of Love Your Garden in the summer and a series called Britain's Best Gardens for ITV, in which he explores 30 of Britain's best domestic gardens.

He's also just launched a new gardening range with Waitrose, though he won't reveal if his Chelsea garden will feature any of the new products.

Incredibly, he sees all this as 'slowing down', saying that with three grandchildren to enjoy and his landmark 65th birthday coming up in May, he hopes to cut down his workload.

"I'll never stop but I want to pace myself a bit more."


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# FAMILIES ENJOY DAY OUT IN VALE AT THE FONMON COUNTRY FAIR

## PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

**OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.**

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**FONMON CASTLE is a glorious location to enjoy some time out in the rural Vale.**

**Last weekend, April 5 - 6, a game and country fair was held in the castle grounds and The GEM's Glyn Evans was on hand to capture some of the sights and activities.**

**There were children's workshops in falconry, fishing and dog handling.**

**There was lots to buy from a large selection of exhibitors – country sports equipment, clothing, crafts and tempting foods too.**

LEFT:People took part in some of the many activies on offer – in this case clay pigeon shooting. BELOW: 'At peace with my surroundings!'

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# ON THE ROAD AGAIN! ABERTHIN TRACTOR BOYS TAKE TO THE VALE FOR TY HAFAN!

PHOTOGRAPHS by **GLYN EVANS**

**OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.**

**Pictures can be purchased by contacting:**

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**ON Sunday, April 6, the 'Aberthin Tractor Boys' once more took to the Vale's roads – this time to raise funds for Ty Hafan.**

**The run started in Arthur John's yard in Cowbridge and took in Ystradowen, Wenvoe and – very wisely – Llanmaes and the Blacksmith's Arms.**

**Around 25 tractors took part and £700 was raised.**

## Novices learn rules of competitive ploughing

*Photographs by Glyn Evans of ffotoimage photography*

**THE Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing & Hedging Society held its practice and coaching day on Saturday, March 29 on a field in Ogmore by Sea by kind permission of Graham David of Norton Farm.**

The chairman of the society, Andrew Studley, thanked David James and Alan Lucas, two well-known ploughing judges, for giving their time at the event. Martyn Huish was also thanked for supplying refreshments.

A dozen tractors and operators turned up to learn the art of ploughing, the rules of ploughing matches and what is expected of competitors. One newcomer, who had refurbished his Massey Ferguson 35, decided to purchase a Ferguson plough and turned up to have a go under instruction.

The fine weather added to the success of the event and at the end of the day everyone had gained some knowledge and experience.

## 'Let's Talk' has combated the stigma around mental health

**THANKS to five-year funding from The BIG Lottery, the Siaradwn Ni – Let's Talk programme co-ordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service, has left a legacy of 1,666 'life guards' in the communities for the two county boroughs.**

The programme which ended in March, has co-ordinated a range of activities to challenge stigma associated with mental health, promotion of positive emotional health and resilience, as well as supporting those affected by suicide or suicidal behaviour.

A BAVO spokeswoman said: "Thanks to training provided (to anyone within the community or even professionals working with vulnerable communities) 1,666 people are now better able to firstly recognise potential signs of suicidal behaviours, connect with an individual, and ultimately take a person at risk to a safer place for now."

*For more information, visit www.bavo.org.uk/training or call BAVO, T: 01656 810400.*

## *News from St Brides Major*

### *Blind auction*

***A BLIND auction will be held at the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major tomorrow (Friday, April 11) at 7pm.***

*All items have been donated and the proceeds are in aid of the Stroke Association and the new build at St Bride's school, which is now in its second phase. Do come along for an enjoyable evening.*

### *St Bridget's Church*

***THERE will be services for Easter Day, April 20, at St Bridget's, St Brides Major, the Priory Church, Ewenny and All Saints, Southerndown.***

*Dates for the diary: April 26-27 – Slade gardens will be open for charity as part of the National Gardens Society. Admission is £4; visitors are also welcome by appointment in April and July.*

*Contact Rosamond and Peter Davies for more information on 01656 880108.*

### *Village market*

***ST BRIDE'S village market will take place this Saturday (April 12). This is a special charity event for Multiple Sclerosis. There are food and flower stalls, bric-a-brac, photocards of the Heritage coast, beautiful silk scarves, silk tissue holders and necklaces which all make ideal gifts.***

### *Sponsored charity walk*

***THERE is a sponsored walk from Newbridge fields, Bridgend. It will start at 2pm and is in aid of the Stroke Association.***

*Please email: christina.davison123@btinternet.com.*

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# Pencoed rugby round-up

**PENCOED seconds came through in this well contested friendly match against Brackla at the Cabbage Patch with a two tries to one count, the final score 13-5.**

The home side had the better of the first half with the scoreboard reflecting this at 10-0 with tries from Ian Gill, who had a good match in the unfamiliar position of full back, and youth wing Dewi Bevan.

The home front row consisting of youth prop forwards Sam Grant and Brandon Nelson, along with the more experienced hooker Dewi Jury, who encouraged his young team mates at every opportunity, were in the ascendancy, providing a solid platform for their side.

With the match resorting to passive scrums at the request of the visitors, the course of the match changed with Brackla coming more into the match and getting a deserved try.

Pencoed were in determined mode however, putting in a number of big hits in defence, and as the second half progressed they created a number of chances only for the last pass to let them down.

Tom Davies added a penalty for the home side and in what was essentially a good all-round team performance from Pencoed, youth centre Jamie Pensom and co-centre Rhys Vowles both ran strongly throughout.

**On Sunday Pencoed under 15s returned to the club house in triumph having captured the Caldicot tournament shield, the players bouncing back from a narrow Ospreys Cup semi-final defeat the previous week.**

Pencoed went through the competition unbeaten with wins over hosts Caldicot 5-0, Cwmbran 5-0, Abertillery 22-0 and Pill Harriers 12-0.

Congratulations go to everyone involved in the under-15s camp with this success.

The club are also delighted with the selection of under-16 squad member Jack Pope to the Wales under-16 squad - well done Jack!

**TR**

*ABOVE and RIGHT: Action from Pencoed Phoenix girls' encounter with Porth. PICTURES BY STUART DYCKOFF*

**Pencoed Phoenix girls gave a dominant and powerful display on Sunday at Woodlands, defeating newly-formed Rhondda outfit Porth.**

In desperate conditions, neither set of supporters were anticipating free flowing, open rugby, but the opening exchanges belied expectations when a try inside two minutes from prolific winger Megan Griffiths began what was to be a memorable day for her.

Experienced centre Caitlin Jones gave her a wonderfully timed long pass creating space out wide for Griffiths to go 25 yards and cap off a great Pencoed move.

The enthused crowd were further entertained, when Pencoed fly half Megan Whittaker miraculously converted whilst kicking, falling and screaming all at the same time.

The conditions however dictated that forward dominated attritional rugby prevailed for the next 20 minutes, with the well organised Porth team showing great determination and effort in taking on their more experienced opponents.

A good spell of possession for their forwards never really threatened the Phoenix line, and it was the home team that nearly extended their lead when lock Emily Carmody broke down the right and allowed winger Bryony Taylor to make a charge.

Support from ever present hooker Jade Thomas kept the move alive until desperate Porth tackling halted the attack a few yards short.

Phoenix extended their lead moments later when talented scrum-half Kayleigh Powell, running strongly but laterally, somehow managed to evade the Porth defence, allowing Phoenix captain Amy Morgan to get her customary try.

Pencoed began to assert themselves when a Jade Thomas try soon followed after a combative run from dependable centre Seren Hart. A quality Whittaker conversion made the score 19-0.

With moments to go in the first half, Porth looked certain to break their duck when a quick penalty tap allowed their pacy hooker to punch a sizeable hole in the Phoenix defence.

With the last line of defence being slight Pencoed winger Jenna Dyckhoff, playing in the unfamiliar position of full back, the Phoenix faithful expected the worst.

Their lack of faith was proved to be unfounded however when a crunchingly brave tackle stopped the attack in its tracks. The crowds cheers were still ringing when the referee blew for halftime.

The second half began with a body blow to the visiting team's hopes of a comeback when Phoenix scrum half Kayleigh Powell scored an incredible try from 50 yards out. Having no doubt realised the efficiency of direct running, the superfit Powell broke numerous tackles on her way under the posts.

The floodgates began to open when soon after, Number 8 Morgan grabbed a second try when picking up at the base of the scrum and strolling over unopposed to extend the lead to 31-0.

To their credit, Porth continued to play hard but a trademark collision laden thrust from centre Jones sucked in the Porth defence allowing Griffiths an easy second.

With the Porth discipline beginning to unravel, the referee penalised them 10 metres for their discontent, and the ever- alert Powell took a quick tap and go to get her second of the afternoon.

Jade Thomas also had time to grab a second after stirring work from the increasingly confident Jenna Dyckoff.

A great take of a firmly struck mud-laden ball allowed the full-back to hare off through the beleaguered defence, with Thomas' tireless support work proving profitable.

The final try fittingly went to Megan Griffiths who completed her hat-trick after outside half Whittaker put her in the clear with a lovely pass out of the tackle.

The final score of 53-0 was a little harsh on the visitors who had battled hard all afternoon and certainly deserved something a little more from the game. **RJ**

# Gymnasts start their year with success

**A pair of local gymnasts have earned national honours to round off a successful start to the year for a local gymnastics club.**

Evan Jones (11) and Josh Beard (16) from Pencoed Gymnastics & Tumbling Club represented the Welsh Gymnastics tumbling team at the British Gymnastics spring tumbling event in Sheffield in March.

The club is currently on a roll of good news, having also successfully applied for funding through the Community Chest scheme to support new coaches at the club to gain coaching qualifications.

Managed by Bridgend County Borough Council and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales and National Lottery funding, the Community Chest scheme provides up to £1,500 in grant funding to help grass roots sports clubs and organisations to get more local people taking part in sport and physical activity.

Originally created with funding through the scheme in 2012, Pencoed Gymnastics and Tumbling Club has come on in leaps and bounds and has already produced four gymnasts that have gone on to represent Wales.

Head coach at the club, 23-year-old Jamie Evans, was selected by Welsh Gymnastics to support and coach the Welsh tumbling team at the event.

He said: "It's been an amazing experience for me as a coach, and our gymnasts' performances were outstanding. Travelling to Sheffield and being involved with such a high standard of athletes was inspiring.

"This is the first time that Josh and Evan have represented Wales and they worked extremely hard to gain selection. We are all immensely proud of their achievements, but at just 11 and 16 years of age there is much more to come from them both."

Under the guidance of Jamie, the club's remarkable achievements provide a great success story for the Community Chest grant scheme, which has so far handed over £950,000 to various local clubs in Bridgend County Borough in 15 years.

Councillor Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Wellbeing, said: "I'm delighted that Community Chest funding has contributed to Pencoed Gymnastics and Tumbling Club's outstanding levels of success.

"While it's great that the funding has helped young athletes like Josh and Evan to reach and compete at an elite level, it's also important to increase the number of opportunities for all youngsters to try new sports and find ways to have fun being active.

"With passionate and committed coaches like Jamie, clubs can use the Community Chest scheme to thrive, so I'd urge anybody who is interested in introducing a new sport or club to Bridgend County Borough to take advantage of the scheme."

Access to the scheme isn't restricted to mainstream sports, and more than 40 different sports have already been boosted by funding in Bridgend County Borough since the scheme began.

As well as educating coaches, the scheme can be used to fund and support various projects, including purchasing new or additional sports equipment, establishing new teams and marketing costs.

The closing date for the next round of funding for the Community Chest scheme in Bridgend County Borough is Wednesday, April 30.

*For more information about the scheme, or to apply for funding, visit the 'Funding & Support' pages at www.sportwales.org.uk.*

*For support with completing your application contact Bridgend County Borough Council's Active Young People Department on (01656) 815218 / 815216) or email AYPD@bridgend.gov.uk.*

# Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Mr M Hope-Gill – **Glyn Llan Barn, Glyn Ogwr, Blackmill** – Construction of a single storey detached double garage.

Mr P Meredith – **17 Georgian Close, Porthcawl, Bridgend** – Two storey side extension.

Miss Victoria Jiminez – **59 Fairfield Avenue, Maesteg** – Demolish existing garage and replace with single storey extension.

Mr Eric Griffiths – **Islawen Farm, Islawen Meadows, Pencoed, Bridgend** – Remove two oak trees.

South Wales Contractors Ltd – **Glanrhyd Farm, Angelton Road, Penyfai, Bridgend** – Programme of works to various trees including felling.

Enterprise Rent-a-Car – **Enterprise Rent-a-Car, David Street, Nathaniel Car Sales site, Bridgend Industrial Estate, Bridgend** – Four illuminated signs on the building and one illuminated monolith sign.

One Stop Stores Ltd – **One Stop Stores, Heol Fach, North Cornelly, Bridgend** – Five fascia signs, two poster signs, two ATM signs, one window graphic and one pole/totem sign.

Mr Mitul Shah – **Anwen Care Home, Heol Pant-yr-Awel, Pantyrawel, Bridgend** – Crown thin, crown lift and reduce height of beech tree.

Dr TV Rajasekhar – **24 Maesteg Road, Maesteg** – Two storey flat roof extension to rear elevation and hardstand to rear.

Little Footsteps Nursery – **Blakedown House, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle, Bridgend** – Proposed change of use from Use Class B1 to D1 – for a children's day nursery.

Mr Alun Lewis Davies – **56 Salisbury Road, Maesteg, Bridgend** – Demolish existing garage and erect new and retrospective works to rear garden including ground levels and retaining walls.

Mr Warren Videan – **44 Commercial Street, Maesteg** – Renewal of shop front, windows, rendering to front/rear elevations.

Vodafone Limited – **Mast on land at Ty Meinwr Farm, Pontycymmer, Bridgend** – Replacement of antenna headframe on the existing 15m ADC monopole with four new replacement antenna.

Mrs Karen Ajax-Lewis – **New Street Surgery, 1 – 3 New Street, Aberkenfig, Bridgend** – Change of use of no 1 New Street to form larger surgery and two storey extension with rear parking space.

Mr Richard Knight – **Veronica Cottage, West Road, Porthcawl** – Construction of a new single storey pitched roofed detached double garage.

Mrs Clare Harris – **18 The Glade, Bryncethin, Bridgend** – first floor side extension and rear single storey extension.

Bridgend Town Council – **The Cenotaph, Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – Complete cleaning of cenotaph and substantial repairs to worn stonework, railings and flagpole.

Mr Ryan Cunningham – **76 Robins Hill, Brackla, Bridgend** – Two storey side extension.

Fairfax and Evans – **Coed Y Mwstwr Golf Club, Coychurch, Bridgend** – Extensions to front and rear of clubhouse and internal alterations.

Mr A Bevan – **13 Waterton Close, Waterton, Bridgend** – Rear single storey extension.

Mr G Gruffydd – **40 Parkfields Road, Bridgend** – Single storey rear extension.

Mr MP Tozer – **55 Ty Gwyn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend** – Single storey extension to rear.

Mr Gareth Jones – **38 St Christopher's Road, Porthcawl** – Single storey extension to front.

Mr Gary Evans – **11 Y Goedlan, Maesteg** – Single storey bedroom/shower room extension for disabled person.

# Llantwit warm up for Bowl with victory

**IN what is without a doubt the biggest game in the history of Llantwit Major, the rugby club is literally buzzing with the prospect of a trip to Nelson on Saturday to play in the Welsh Rugby Union's SWALEC Bowl semi-final against Cardiff-based side Old Illtydians.**

This will surpass the Silver Ball glory days purely on the fact that this is a national competition, although nothing should be taken away from those successful players - in fact they should be the motivation required for this young Llantwit side of 2014 to emulate their forefathers.

Llantwit warmed up for the encounter with a league game against high flying Nantymoel which saw the home side beat their higher placed opponents 12-0 thanks to the boot of Laurence Howley (with a drop goal) and three Ryan Evans penalties.

However, on speaking with the coaches, this score does not reflect the stranglehold Llantwit had on the game and in the words of head coach Darren Joy, "It's the most content I have been all season after a game following that performance".

Although Old Illtydians also won their league game the message will be simple for the semi-final – more of the same please.

Old Illtydians will be no strangers to Llantwit, having been in the same division last season with the honours being shared with one win apiece.

Saturday's contest will be ever so different, as it's a semi-final and the prize for the winner is a day out at the Millennium Stadium for the final.

Every player wants to take the very special field that is the stadium and you can bet that this Llantwit team will be the best prepared that they possibly could be with no stone left unturned as they strive to put in a performance.

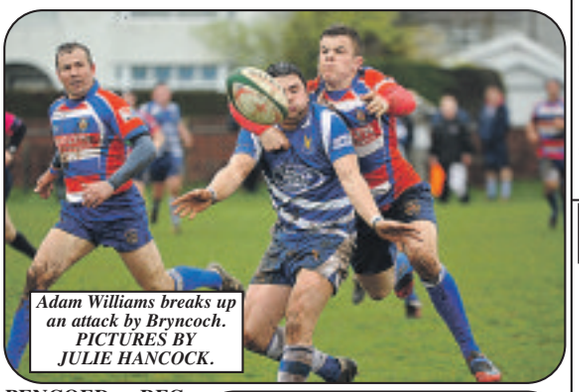
The league is your bread and butter but it's the added spice of a cup run that really gets the nerves going.

There have been many messages of support from in and around the Vale, wishing the club every success. The club has seen so much interest in the game that two supporters buses have been ordered to travel to the game.

Come 2.30pm on Saturday the talking will have been done, the preparation finished and it will be down to the squad - good luck boys, we as a club are proud of each and every one of you and I know that this sentiment is shared by many across the town.

**NE**

# Pencoed put Bryncoch to the sword!



*Adam Williams breaks up an attack by Bryncoch. PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK.*

**PENCOED RFC almost scored from the kick-off in their game with Bryncoch!**

Second row Chris John broke away before being brought down a few metres from the visitors' try line.

It was Bryncoch however who opened the scoring after five minutes, centres Andrew Spratt and Craig Thomas combining for Spratt, brother of Ospreys centre Jonathan, to cross at the posts, Thomas converting.

The Pencoed support did not have to wait long for their team to level matters, half backs Marc Davies and Rhys Clarke breaking away from their own 22 and good support play from John, Adam Williams and Josh Harris saw wing Scott Narbeth apply the finish; Davies converted.

Pencoed took the lead when, following a quickly taken tap penalty, centre Lloyd Ryland crashed over; Davies converted for a lead of 14-7 after 25 minutes.

The visitors hit back with skipper Thomas capitalizing on a mid field breakdown to race away unopposed to score.

Driving play from impressive Pencoed No8 Gareth Prentice put his side on the attack with prop forward Christian Powell held just short. Sustained home pressure got its reward, the Pencoed pack driving Bryncoch back at a scrum for Prentice to get the touchdown.

Home full back Adam Williams then did well to snuff out a visitors counter, before Pencoed got their bonus point try, John hacking through to the corner where Narbeth regathered and good support play from Prentice and Powell saw John stretch his considerable frame to reach the try line Davies converted and Pencoed led 26-12 at the interval.

The home side increased their lead early in the second period, Davies alert to a visitors breakdown in their own 22, snapping up the loose ball to go over unchallenged at the posts for a converted try which effectively put the match beyond the visitors at 33-12.

*ABOVE: Kieron Moore pushes away a would-be tackler while BELOW: Chris John crosses for Pencoed.*

Pencoed were now playing with confidence, centres Ryland and Ken Morris combining to move the ball from their own line for wing Richie Samuel to burst clear before being just pushed out at halfway.

Pencoed then got their sixth try for the second match in succession, Narbeth fielding the ball around the centre spot before breaking through midfield to feed the supporting Ryland who drove over for his second try. Davies converted for Pencoed to run out comprehensive winners, 40-12.

A real positive the Pencoed camp can take from this game were the displays of youth players Rhys Bargery, Rhys Clarke and Connor Jones, who all looked comfortable at this level.

No 8 Gareth Prentice was chosen as the Pencoed man of the match, his driving play giving Bryncoch all sorts of problems.

On Saturday Pencoed travel to Neath Athletic and will no doubt look to maintain their push for as high as possible league finish. **TR**

Read your GEM online - visit *www.bridgend-today.co.uk* and follow the link!

# OLYMPIAN SUE AT A STRETCH!

*Sue and her class.*

**IN the 1980 summer Olympics, Sue Cheesebrough represented Great Britain as a gymnast and was British National Champion in 1978 and 1979.**

Her father is Albert Cheesebrough who scored 88 goals in 345 league games over a 16-year professional footballing career.

Now a Porthcawl resident, Sue runs her 'Stretch And Tone' class in Porthcawl's Newton institute.

Sue says it was purely by chance that the 'Stretch And Tone' class came to start four years ago but it has proved very popular.

The Institute, located on Long View Road, is a happy and most welcoming hall where ladies meet up every week to stretch their bodies!

"Their progress is most noticeable," she said. "Posture, balance and flexibilty have all improved and all are continuing to make great progress while also enjoying wonderful social interaction every week."

Regular member of the class, Ann Nowell, commented: "Sue creates such an uplifting energy within the group, which is truly inspirational for all of us ladies. We all feel much better after our sessions." **DS**

## PORTHCAWL RUGBY ROUND-UP

# Youth team continue their fine run of form!

**PORTHCAWL YOUTH continued their winning ways with a 39-15 home victory over Tonna last Saturday – despite the unexpected absence of a number of players.**

Matthew Owen, the coach who has guided the Seaweeds to the league title in his first season at the helm, was left with just the bare XV for this friendly, but his side still possessed too much quality and determination for their latest opponents.

Although the backs recorded five of Porthcawl's six tries, Owen reserved most of his praise for the pack, particularly the front five of Tom Matthews, Will Jones, Ben Kent, Rhys Mortimer and Ben Wall.

The coach said: "It was an all-round gutsy performance from the forwards. They stuck at it and set the platform for the backs."

Kent and Jones, who joined the outstanding Tom Matthews in the front row, were both making rare starts. "It was good for them to get some game-time and experience and they both did well," Owen added.

Lloyd Stanford, Jobe Owens and Jake Thomas all crossed as Porthcawl responded to an early 3-0 deficit with an 18-point blitz, which also included a penalty by Ollie Banner.

Tonna rallied with a converted try that brought them back into contention at the break, but their mini-revival was rapidly curtailed by their hosts in the second half.

Winger Stanford popped out of a ruck and sprinted untouched to the line to re-establish Porthcawl's authority and that score was followed by another individual effort from Ross Jenkins.

Banner then ensured his side's success by finishing off a superb move featuring key contributions from Conor Rees, who impressed at scrum-half, Thomas and Jenkins. The outside-half converted all three second-half tries for a final haul of 14 points.

Unfortunately, Porthcawl's victory was marred by the red card issued to Owens, their influential No 8, for fighting and the ankle injury that forced flanker Gareth Evans-Rees off the field.

With no replacements available, they were reduced to 13 players for the remainder of the match, which allowed Tonna to capitalise with a consolation try. Nevertheless, it was another excellent result in what has become a triumphant season for Porthcawl youth. **HP**

### ROUND UP

**The under-7s played Rumney away and lthe rain stayed away, allowing the rugby to flow.**

It was good practise ahead of this week's tournament in Tondu with all 12 players running their legs off in attack and defence. The team effort was superb and although we split the teams into two, each one played for their coaches and each other.

Game one was played on a pitch with three paddling pools in the middle, challenging any player brave enough on both sides to run through them. Either the parents had warned our team to stay away from the mud, or the small pools of water intimidated our team in the first 10 minutes, where we ran backwards in defence and forgot all the skills that we have been so strong in this year.

With Rumney running in seven tries to our two, things were not going well, but we came back with Samuel, who had his speedy shoes on, sidestepping players and paddling pools with great skill, pulling off some great tries and keeping us in the game.

He really stuck his hand up for the clubman award with a great performance. For the next three 10 minute periods the team pulled together and were immense. In the first 10 minutes Dexter and Matt had drifted back in defence, but no longer - now both charged forward taking some great tags.

Dexter's bravery shone through with a certain try for Rumney - he dived through one of the puddles, taking a great tag, allowing us to turnover the ball. This allowed us to get into our running game with Dexter and Matt (impeded by his footwear) rampaging up the field, showing great footwork.

With Dewi and Samuel scoring some great tries, putting us ahead with some strong running and good sidestepping, the rest of the team pulled together and got in on the act.

One great move comes to mind from our own line, with all the team making great runs and putting in long passes, sometimes before the tag, which then saw Matthew making a great break just being caught short at the line; but he showed great awareness and stepped inside and passed to Dewi, who went over for a great team try.

At this point the team had the bit between their teeth, with Lex going over with a wonderful sidestep putting two players on their backs without them touching him, and seeing Dexter back to his rampaging best in attack and defence, scoring some great tries.

Those watching game two managed to see a masterclass which was helped by six youngsters who listened so well to both the coach and the referee.

Dazzling displays were provided by every player who demonstrated all that the coaches have tried to teach them by keeping ball in hand and evading the opposition sidestep after sidestep. Theo and Harrison were classic examples of this.

Lewis again was ace, tagging and tagging over and over again, ensuring our defensive line was strong at all times. One of Lewis' tries started in the left hand corner and 20-odd sidesteps later, he scored in the same corner.

Joel, Dylan and Tom kept a really strong line in the middle of the field which was really nice to watch given we have worked really hard on this over the last few weeks, with a couple of surging runs which came really close to seeing more tries being scored. Another player back to top form was Dylan. Both Joel and Matthew put in tremendous efforts and both deserved a try with their performances.

What the coaches enjoyed the most today was the boys showing real team spirit and togetherness, seen when one team was still playing with the other cheering on their teammates from the side.

The overall score on game two was Rumney 34, Porthcawl 31; on the awards front, thanks go to the Burge-Jones family for providing the additional awards which we have added as each week it's too hard to nominate one player.

The clubman award, which is for listening and the effort put into the game, went to both Dexter and Matthew - well deserved!

Top try scorer went to Theo, top tagger was awarded to Lewis and outstanding effort went to Lex, who is growing in confidence week in week out.

*Try scorers: Theo Brown (11), Dewi Hooper (7), Samual Richards (4), Dexter Randle (3), Dylan Burge-Jones (2), Lewis Morgan (2), Harrison Brown, Lex Wren-Owens.*

**RH**

### RUMNEY UNDER-8S 4, PORTHCAWL RFC UNDER-8S 12

**We haven't played Rumney since last year's tournament, where we were the only under-7s team playing in an under-8s competition.**

We did ourselves proud last year and we were all looking forward to playing at our appropriate age level.

We were very slow starting, which seems to bother us as spectators and coaches more than it bothers the players. After the defence sorted itself out, our tag collecting started with a lot of speed in closing down our opponents and some very precise tag taking.

Once in front we started to play with confidence, tearing up the pitch in a busy flurry of tries. Some great runs from the speedsters, who had the enterprise behind them of some superb support running, gave us options from each and every angle of attack.

We were very pleased with our defence, our running and desire to do the right thing. There was lots of unselfish play, lots of intelligent passing and some top class offloads in the tagging area, with seven of our 12 players getting on the scoresheet, which is superb!

A very defining game of all that we do well; top performance guys!

*Try of the day - Dylan, tagger of the day - Evan, pass of the day - Grace.*

*Try scorers: Will (3), Grace (2), Dylan (2), Max W (2), Luis, Stella, Evan.*

**JP**

### RUMNEY UNDER-9S 9 PORTHCAWL UNDER-9S 13

***Try scorers: Josh Woodbridge (5), Teejay Vickery (2), Stefan Yardley (2), Luke Roberts (2), Spencer Morgan, Jack Olding.***

**MR**

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## Public Notices

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
**LICENSING ACT 2003**

To whom it may concern, I, Mandy Jones, do hereby give notice of an application to The Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority for the variation to premises licence at the address Fizz Bar, 12 Market Street, Barry, CF62 7AS.

This to include: **The retail sale of alcohol** Sun, Thurs - 09:00-23:30, Fri and Sat 09:00-01:30. **Regulated entertainment** Sun - Wed 12:00-23:00, Thurs 12:00-23:30, Fri, Sat 12:00-01:30. **Opening Hours** Sun, Thurs - 09:00-00:00, Fri and Sat - 09:00-02:00.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to: Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Department, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make false statements in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

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## Birthdays

**Abigail Baker**

Happy 11th Birthday on 15th April 2014

Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Joe and all the family xxx

**KIM JONES**

**Happy 26th Birthday**

*on April 16, 2014*

**Lots of love, Mum, Dad, Kathryn, Ember & The Bombettes XXX**

**Gillian Tasker**

on 11th April

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

***Best wishes from all your friends at The GEM***

## Thank You

THANK YOU

*To the kind lady who told us about the found cat advert in the shop window. It was indeed our 'Rosie'!*

*I would also like to say thank you to all those people who have helped to look for her - especially the kind couple who found her and kept her fed and safe while they were looking for her owners.*

*JOHN AND VAL FROM TYNEWYDD ROAD, BARRY.*

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NOTICE

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## Family Notices

**WHITAKER**
**Robert Duncan (Bob)**

**On 2nd April 2014, aged 68, Bob passed away peacefully to be reunited with his beloved wife Jean. Much loved father, dadcu and brother.**

Service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge on Tuesday, 15th April at 1pm, no flowers by request, donations in lieu of flowers to Kidney Wales Foundation, 1 Radnor Court, 256 Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, CF5 1GZ.

**BOSMA**
**Lubbe**
**Born Grootagast, Holland**

**On April 2 at Holme Tower Marie Curie Centre, Penarth, peacefully after a long illness, Lubbe of Rhoose, much beloved husband of Janice, dearly loved father of Mark and Jason, dear father-in-law of Nicola and Julie, loved master of Shiloh his Weimerana, much loved by all his grandchildren and great grandchildren.**

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday April 16th. Service and Cremation 1.30pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF**
**TOBUTT**
**Philip Alan**

Sadly and suddenly on 6th April. Much loved partner to Doreen. Adored Father to Sharon, Daryl and Anita. Best Bampy ever to Ryan, Deryn, Iwan and Ffion. Watch over us. Love you to the moon and back.

**OVERTON**
**Jim**

Liz, Ian, Peter and Kirsty would like to express their gratitude for the kind words, comfort and ongoing support given by friends and family. Please know your kindness during this hard time has meant so much to us all. Thanks to Canon Derek and team for his comforting service. Special thanks to Gillian, Hazel, John, Tom, David, Jamie, Simon and Daniel.

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# Christian U-boat commander who infuriated the German navy

**ON April 1, Captain David Jones gave a talk to the Dinas Powys Probus Club entitled 'The Enemy We Killed – My New Friends', an account of his war-time experiences in the Merchant Navy and his encounter with U-boat commander, Captain Werner Hartstein.**

David joined his first ship, *The Quebec City*, at the age of 15, just 48 hours after war was declared, and sailed from Newport as a junior cadet/gunnery officer. The captain was William Caradoc Thomas, commonly referred to as 'WC'. David was not a success as a gunnery officer and became the navigator cadet, a position he held until his ship was torpedoed.

The Quebec City was part of the convoys crossing the Atlantic to bring war materials and food to Britain. On one occasion, the ship was damaged by a German torpedo and could not keep up with the other vessels and so had to be left behind to try and make its own un-protected way to New York.

It succeeded and the crew were taken in by generous New Yorkers, but only after first attending a service at the Welsh Chapel, at the insistence of WC.

In September, 1942, the ship was torpedoed in the South Atlantic, 1,200 miles off the coast of West Africa, by U-boat 156, under the command of Captain Hartstein.

At the moment the ship was hit, David was in the shower and because the door was jammed, he had to escape through the port-hole, totally naked; 44 survivors managed to get into the 20-foot-long life boats, with David in the bow of his boat, where he stayed for 17 days, until they reached land at Liberia. Without any clothes for the whole journey, to keep warm at night he snuggled between two large seamen!

Before sinking the *Quebec City* with gun-fire, Captain Hartstein made sure that all the survivors were safe and apologised for not being able to spare them any provisions or water.

He allowed some men to return to their ship for water, gave them directions for land and hoped they would all get to safety. Captain Hartstein later sank the troop ship *Laconia* but managed to save 1,000 seamen.

He was heavily criticised by the German Navy for not killing survivors, but his humanitarian principles and Christian beliefs made him incapable of such acts. He was killed in action in 1943.

When David eventually returned home to Swansea, his mother's first words on opening her door were: "Where have you been for the last three years?"

After the war, he decided to research Werner Hartstein's background and to write about his courage in trying to save men he had torpedoed. He discovered that he came from an extremely wealthy family, and his home had been a castle the size of Balmoral.

David's book, which is the title of his talk, became a best-seller and was translated into German at the request of a naval museum.

David travelled to Germany to meet Werner's relatives and unveiled a plaque commemorating his bravery in the church at Plauen, Bavaria, where he had been christened and worshipped.

David retired after studying at Cardiff and London universities, gaining a Master Mariner's qualification.

*The vote of thanks was given by Derry Moore.*

**CR**

# Penarth is voted Pier of the Year

**PENARTH pier has been voted Pier of the Year 2014 by the National Piers Society – receiving more than twice the number of votes of its nearest rival, Cromer.**

The pier, owned and maintained by The Vale of Glamorgan Council, recently saw a £4 million regeneration of the Pier Pavilion by Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd.

It was funded by the Vale Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund, Welsh Government, and various other organisations and donors.

Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "I am absolutely delighted that Penarth Pier has been chosen as 'Pier of the year 2014'. The pier has always been a special place, but the hard work, dedication and commitment of Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd [PACL] in renovating the Pavilion has ensured the pier is now truly the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the Vale."

# Dockers Cup delight for the Rhoose Rovers

**IT was a match that will live long in the memories of everyone associated with Rhoose Rovers FC, as they played out a hard earned 2-1 victory against VIFC after extra time, to win the Dockers Cup at Jenner Park.**

**In a match that provided everything: tension, excitement, physicality and ecstasy, it wasn't until the final minute of extra time that the winning goal was scored.**

**The first half was a tight and scrappy affair with both sides creating half chances but neither getting that elusive chance to give their side the advantage.**

**The only bit of action involved a heavy collision between VI's Jordan Mortimore and Rhoose's Owain Grandin. Grandin raced out to claim the ball, only to have taken a heavy blow from the striker.**

**It was a nervy few minutes for the team and its supporters but Grandin was okay to continue. The halftime whistle was greeted with relief as an otherwise flat first half came to a close.**

**The second half was like watching a completely different match; the Rovers came out all guns blazing with some bright football, given the boggy conditions on the Jenner Park pitch.**

**However, they seemed to have left their shooting boots at home as the VI goalkeeper remained untested.**

**The Rovers were almost made to pay for their lack of composure when a direct ball cut the defensive line and brought a free-kick on the edge of the box.**

**However, with everyone on the touchline expecting a goal, the wall remained strong and cleared the danger to bring the main bit of controversy; Rhys Attley was put through on goal only to seemingly be taken off the ball by the VI right-back.**

**Cries for a penalty came from most of the supporters but they were waved away by the referee. The match was still deadlocked at full time, which meant extra time beckoned.**

**This brought the majority of the action. Within minutes, the first goal was scored; a corner whipped in by VI was scrapped over the line, despite two blocks from the Rovers defence.**

**Many thought that that would be it, but they say that when you score you are at your most vulnerable, and that is what happened.**

**A crisp ball was played through to Tom Bevan, seconds after kick-off, and Bevan showed plenty of composure to level the score and send the crowd into raptures.**

**The final 10 minutes brought the most excitement as it became a match of end to end football.**

**Both sides had key chances to write their name into the headlines but it came to the final minute when the ball was played from Jamie Bagnall, to Rhys Attley.**

**Attley then bypassed the defensive line and placed the ball into the bottom corner of the goal to send Rhoose Rovers into ecstasy.**

**Celebrations were far from muted as everyone raced to the corner to celebrate with Attley as his goal ensured the Dockers Cup went back to Rhoose.**

***Squad: Owain Grandin, Dale Trickett (Matt Bagnall, 52 minutes), Jamie Bagnall, Jonathan Park, Joe Walsh (c), Chris Vinson, Rhys Attley, Chris Bolton, Joel Preece, Tom Bevan, Josh Rowe. Subs not used: Ashley Baker, Jakob Andrews, John Martlow.***

**Special thanks go to John Martlow for arranging a team coach for the day, Kevin Rees for managing from the touchline as Dave Walsh conducted proceeding from the stands, and all of the families and friends that turned up to help make this a magical day for the club.**

**Matchday sponsors: GDL Solutions, Go Direct! and KR Builders.** **AB**

# *Penalty shoot out sees Panthers lift the Cup*

**TWO Barry sides met in the under-13s cup final at Jenner Park on Sunday, April 6, with the underdogs Porthkerry Panthers playing cup holders Barry Athletic, who had yet to lose a competitive cup match.**

*Porthkerry Panthers with the trophy. PICTURE BY ROB JONES.*

The Panthers started brightly and enjoyed the majority of the possession forcing a number of corners that were well defended by a towering Athletic back four.

The Panthers were creating chances with Sam Hopkins, Ben Jones, Bradley Western and Callum Bellemy all causing problems for the Athletic defence.

The Panthers back four of Cory James, Jack Stokes, Adam Davies and Oliver White were in impressive form, allowing only the odd long shot from the Athletic during a dominant first half.

At the other end the Panthers were creating all sorts of chances with Joe Mellars scoring from a curling 20 yards effort from just outside the box to put them in control.

Louie Dutton hit the post from a corner before being put clear by Joe, only to see his shot go wide from eight yards. Joe Mellars was put through by Sam Hopkins but his shot was parried by the exceptional Athletic keeper, leaving the score at halftime 1-0.

The second half saw the Athletic come out fighting; they began to get their passing game going without penetrating the Panthers goal. Lloyd Perkins was now putting the tackles in and covering every inch of grass.

The Athletic got an equaliser halfway through the second half when an inch perfect shot found the bottom corner. This resulted in the Athletic's best spell of the game, forcing two great saves from Panthers keeper Ben Wallace, one outstanding save at his near post.

The introduction of fresh legs in the form of Rhys Everitt and Declan Edwards rejuvenated the Panthers and as the game wore on they took control again.

The dreaded extra-time came; the Panthers continued to create chances with Joe Mellars hitting the side netting before two late chances.

The first was created by Brad Western who squared the ball to the feet of Declan Edwards who saw his shot go agonisingly over, and then for the save of the match from the Athletic keeper from Louie Dutton.

This meant that the match would be decided on penalties and, at 4-4, Panthers goalkeeper Ben Wallace produced a fine save to leave the outcome in the hands of Sam Hopkins.

This time last year he represented Barry Athletic before his move to the Panthers and it was his well struck penalty that hit the underside of the bar that won this thrilling match for the Panthers.

The game was played in a great spirit, epitomised by Joseff Nicholas and the whole of the Athletic boys, who did everything to showcase an exceptional final.

Barry Town manager, Gavin Chesterfield, presented the trophies to all the players and referees, and captain Jack Stokes lifted the cup aloft after a gruelling encounter.

The young referees on show were a credit to the Vale of Glamorgan football league and highlighted the huge amount of young talent that has recently emerged within local referees. **RJ**

# And the view from the Athletic...

**THIS year's under-13s cup final was contested between Barry Athletic FC and Porthkerry Panthers FC at Jenner Park.**

Despite their rivalry, both teams showed that they have nothing but respect for each other as the game was played in a tremendous spirit.

The game itself was a frantic affair but the Panthers were the better team in the first half and deservedly led 1-0 at halftime with a well taken Joe Mellors goal.

The Athletic had the better of the second half and got their rewards with a Joshua Peets finish from just inside the box.

Extra-time was tense with both teams having chances but the game finished 1-1.

The lottery of penalties ensued and although the Athletic started the stronger it was the Panthers who held their nerve to get the win.

Man of the match for the Athletic went to Joe Allwood who was outstanding.

The coaching staff of the Athletic would like to thank their long-term sponsors TEMA Fabrications and Container Services Wales Ltd, and particular thanks go to O'Shea's Fish & Chip Shop of Barry Island for the generosity shown by providing the post-match food.

The coaching staff would also like to thank the parents for their continued support and to congratulate the players on their tremendous effort in reaching their second final in two years.

*Squad: Matthew Mayor, Sam Montgomery, Alfie Davies, Dan Barnett, Joe Allwood, Rhys Woolmer, Evan Wells, Conner Bright, Jack Such, Will Drew, Jordan Jones, Joshua Peets, Lawrence Walpole.*

**DW**

# Poor conditions see the Pencoed Phoenix defeated

**IN a round of super cup and horrid conditions, it was a game that Pencoed Phoenix really shouldn't have played against Seven Sisters.**

*Charlie Mundy in action for Pencoed Phoenix. PICTURE BY JULIE HANCOCK*

Phoenix took a blow with a bad injury in the first 10 minutes to prop Rebecca Pope and the game was stopped for a good half hour for an ambulance; we with Rebecca a speedy recovery.

Phoenix started the game well after the break and should have scored a try but it was stolen just before the try line and booted upfield where Seven Sisters scored just before halftime.

Phoenix continued pressure and were a better team and had Sisters worried but couldn't get to that try line.

Seven just took their chances and kept the score ticking over. With failing light, wind and fog it was a last minute break from winger and sidestepper Leanne Burnell who scored a deserved try for Phoenix, as Sam Trickey kicked the conversion before the final whistle, final score 19-7.

Next up for the Phoenix is Caernarfon at home on April 13 and then at home against Gwernyfed on April 16.

**JH**

# Llantwit Major junior rugby round-up

**LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-13s welcomed Pentyrch to the Rec this past Sunday on a pleasant and fresh morning.**

With the injury and illness curse hitting the home side it was a good chance for our new players to get a run out and show their talents and after a team huddle the boys were ready.

Llantwit kicked the ball to the visitors and straight from the off Number 8 Jos Harris bullied his opposing forward by putting in a bone-crunching hit on his opposite number.

With good counter rucking by the home side Llantwit managed to steal the ball from the breakdown and winger Mason Richardson found the ball in his hands out wide, with three players between him and the line he jinked and stepped his way past them and crossed for the opening score of the game.

The home side pack then controlled the pace of the game for a few minutes with Fryer and Roberts making the hard yards and coming ever closer to the visitors' tryline.

In recent weeks where rucking has been an issue the forwards were superb. Henson, Harris, Sims and Chandler-Haines were winning good ball and setting a good platform for the backs to play off. The second try of the game came from a forward. A charge up field from captain Hodge popped the ball out of a tackle to lock Treadgold who was never going to be stopped from 10 metres out.

The visitors started to make some ground but every player running at the Llantwit back line was swiftly brought to ground, fly half Padmore was everywhere chopping down runners left right and centre.

With injuries to the back line players flankers Richardson and McIness stepped into the wing position and the defence was like a brick wall. The defence stayed strong just soaking up the pressure and a superb steal on the floor by Sims popped the ball to Padmore, who then stepped inside his opposite number and wellied the ball up the pitch. Iwan Robinson-Booth gave chase, with 40 metres and 15 players in front of him Iwan outpaced them and scored to make it 19-0. Holloway converted to make it 21-0 at halftime.

The boys knew Pentrych would come out fighting in the second half and a quick lapse in concentration early on got the visitors on the score sheet to make it 21-5. The pack of Roberts, Henson, Chandler-Haines, Fryer, Sims, Tredgold, Harris and Hodge then decided to play the ball tight and making good ground and dragging in the opposition players the ball fell into Holloway's hands.

Like Padmore he hoofed the ball upfield and once again Iwan gave chase and scored once again. It was looking good for the blood and blacks when a restart after the previous try fell into Treadgold's hands. He began his run upfield and brushed off seven tackles to score his second of the game.

Llantwit were to have the final say of the game when a kick landed in the arms of Iwan who, in an incredible change of pace, went from a jog to a full sprint in a blink of an eye. The Pentyrch fly half's expression said it all when Iwan ran the entire length of the pitch to score his hat-trick.

Pentrych tried for a consolation try but another monstrous tackle by Harris swiftly brought the attack to an end when he drove the Pentyrch prop back into touch.

It was by far the best game Llantwit have played this season and to beat any Pentyrch side is a good feather to have in your cap. From start to finish the boys worked for each other and played to their full potential.

Kickers Holloway and Robinson-Booth also walked away with 100 per cent success from the kicking tee. Final score Llantwit Major 42, Pentyrch 5.

Llantwit's next opponents are St Josephs this coming Sunday; there are still two spaces left in the team for anyone interested in joining - for more information contact Kris Pilcher on 07557 128861.

*Team: Dom Henson, Rhys Roberts, Tyler Chandler-Haines, Lewis Fryer, Cameron Sims, Connor Teadgold, Jos Harris, Owen Hodge ©, Ben Wilson, Liam Padmore, Dylan Holloway, Iwan Robinson-Booth, Callum McIness, Mason Richardson.*

**KP**

**Llantwit Major under-12s' first trip into the Caerphilly Valley was an enjoyable venture for the seasoned supporters who have followed their beloved team to the length and breadth of the south Wales area.**

The game against Machen sprung to life when the Machen defence showed Morgan Jenkins too much space on the left wing and the nimble centre bounced off several tackles to score the first points within the first 40 seconds.

Two minutes later the AmmoKnights extended their lead, good play down the left sucked in the cover defenders and as the ball was spread wide fly-half Ben Reilly found himself five yards out with no defenders left to stop him crossing the line.

Having suffered the early setbacks Machen set about pressuring the AmmoKnights line; however the visitors were in no mood to let the Caerphilly outfit breach their defence.

Following 10 scoreless minutes, Llantwit produced some of their best rugby of the season when swift play down the right by Ethan White caused the home defence to become disjointed.

With the ball flowing slickly through both backs and forwards hands it found Ben Moignard waiting on the left wing and he gobbled up the chance sprinting 40 yards to score the third try.

Ethan White scored another straight from the restart and all of a sudden Machen were 20-0 down in 60 seconds.

Llantwit crossed once more in the first half with Morgan Jenkins getting his second on the half-time whistle and the AmmoKnights had a healthy 25-0 lead.

The second half was a slower affair with the forwards swapping places with the backs and vice versa.

Ethan White again showed his promise with a side step that even sent the trees in another direction as he dazzled his way through to score his second try. He converted his own try and it was 32-0.

In the closing moments Llantwit Major added two more unconverted tries; firstly Morgan Jenkins grabbed his hat-trick following a powerful run through the middle of the Machen defence. Zac Williams finished the scoring, grabbing a last minute try and running up the AmmoKnights score to 42-0.

An entertaining encounter with the Llantwit team showing a great of confidence with the ball in hand. The visitors will have to maintain this form with some difficult away trips to come this month.

**MR**

**Llantwit Major under-8s welcomed two teams to play home on Sunday - Kenfig Hill and Pentyrch.**

With an excellent turn out of players the team were split into two: team 1 was Flynn, Braydan, Tom G (c), Marcus, Lewys, Kian and Thomas G and team 2 was Thomas L (c), Owen, Brandon, Myles, Rhys, Corey and Dafydd.

Both teams played very well with some excellent tagging, off loading and great tries.

Team 1 scores were Llantwit Major 5, Kenfig Hill 11; try scorers were Thomas G with 2 and Braydan with 3.

The second match was Llantwit Major 3, Pentyrch 8; try scorers were Marcus with 1 and Braydan with 2. Today's captain was Tom Jones and man of the match for team 1 was Braydan.

Team 2 scores were Llantwit Major 6, Kenfig Hill 7; try scorers were Myles, Corey with 3, Thomas L with 2 and Rhys.

The second match was Llantwit Major 5, Pentyrch 11; try scores for this match were Thomas l with 2, Corey, Brandon and Dafydd.

Today's captain was Thomas L and he was also man of the match.

Well done to all players you all played some excellent rugby.

# Bombettes make Cup progress

**ON Sunday, March 30, Barry Ladies travelled to Gorseinon to play a rescheduled Cup game.**

The sun was out which set the mood up for the game. Gorseion kicked off and Barry started strongly and Potter made an awesome tackle.

Gorseinon had to go for uncontested scrums but good teamwork from the forwards pushed Gorseinon onto the backfoot, giving Barry their first try, scored by Young.

Barry's backline then had the opportunity to attack Gorseinon using the forwards. A scrum to Barry gave Potter the opportunity to score Barry's second try.

Kim Jones then smashed through the Gorseinon back line to take the score to 15-5 at half-time.

Rees stepped into Barry's backline, powering through a tiring defence which gave Jones the fourth try to take the score to 20-5, the conversion was missed by Richards.

Barry gave it their all with support and communication coming from around the park.

O'Neil stepped up, chip and chased from half way and the forward work gave the ground needed for Potter to again power through, giving Barry their fifth try to a final score of 22-5.

A club spokeswoman said: :We would also like wish good luck to Rebecca Husk as she takes on a career in the army - the Bombettes and all at Barry Rugby Club wish you the best of luck."

*Barry ladies are holding a live band night on May 17 at Barry rugby club - £5 a ticket.*

**RB**


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# Girls' football is on the rise in Penarth

**GIRLS football is on the rise in the Penarth area after a primary school league was developed by local club, Vale Ladies & Girls FC.**

The event at Ysgol Pen Y Garth Sports Hall saw Victoria Primary, St Joseph's RC, Albert Primary and St Andrew's Major schools play regular friendly fixtures.

This development is an add-on to the already established Barry Primary Girls League, where 15 teams from 13 schools currently play matches.

Club chairman and coach Luke Williams commented: "The Penarth League is an extra opportunity we have developed for girls to be introduced to football. The success of our school based opportunities has already seen a large number of new players join our club. In addition, we are now seeing local schools offering their own girls football clubs during lunchtimes and after-school sessions, which is a crucial part to growing the game."

Vale Ladies & Girls FC already have more than 100 players representing the club on a weekly basis from the age of seven to adults.

*The club is always recruiting new players. Telephone 07832 273688, email valegirlsfc@gmail.com or visit www.valegirlsfc.co.uk.*

# Athletic's open day

**BARRY Athletic bowls club is a private club situated on Barry Island.**

We are now looking to recruit new and experienced bowlers of any age or sex to join the club, and are holding an open day on Sunday, April 27 at 2pm and invite anybody who may be interested in finding a new sporting interest to come along and try the game of bowls.

All you will need is a pair of flat soled shoes (no heels or trainers), and we will provide the rest. We will have qualified coaches on hand to help any beginners, so please come along and bring your family for a fun afternoon.

**CC**

# Fowler joins college team

**FORMER Cardiff RFC director of rugby and Cardiff University head of rugby Martyn Fowler has joined Cardiff and Vale College to establish a world-class rugby academy.**

Martyn said he was excited to take the lead in CAVC's Rugby Academy: "The Academy will be comparable with any of the four regions with its player development and player pathway, while it will also develop a broader holistic model that promotes an environment where academic and sporting excellence can be developed hand in hand," he said.

"I have very strong working relationships with the three Blues region universities - Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan and the University of South Wales (Pontypridd & Treforest) for those not wishing to leave the region."

*ABOVE: Martyn Fowler.*

Martyn is a level four coach with more than 15 years coaching experience; five of those years were spent coaching in the Principality Premiership with Bedwas RFC and Cardiff RFC and he is extremely excited about setting up a Rugby Academy at CAVC.

*For more information about the Rugby Academy at Cardiff and Vale College email mfowler@cavc.ac.uk.*

**CB**

# THE BARRY CHESS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

**THE Camelots have played twice recently.**

They earned a win over relegation rivals Cardiff Pawns by a margin of 3-2; Craig Woolcock and Lee Davis had comfortable wins while John Stephenson played a long game and was a pawn up when he won on time to record his first victory in division 1.

They also played against the Cardiff Bishops and were beaten by a score of 3-5-1.5 with Lee and Craig being responsible for all of our points.

The Camelots are currently sitting in fifth place in the table having earned 40 points from 17 matches and have only one game to play.

They are not mathematically safe yet as the Cardiff Pawns have 28.5 points, but have three games to play and so they could reach 43.5 points in the unlikely event that they score the maximum 15 points from their remaining games. This week also saw the relegation of St Johns' College Positrons.

The Quarks in division 2 had a match away to Porthcawl - unfortunately we lost this match 3-2.

On board 2 Sam White earned an excellent quick draw against the highly rated Neil Stuart, while on board 5 Peter Watkins found a neat tactic to force a win while John Stephenson had winning opportunities but had to settle for a draw.

The Quarks remain at the bottom of the table but have not been relegated yet. There are still two games to go but we need to win both by a large margin to avoid relegation to the third tier.

In division 4 the Gambits played their second play-off game away to North Cardiff Ravens. Although heavily outrated the Gambits ran out winners, picking up three points.

The top four boards were drawn with newcomer Stephen Bonutto picking up his first ever victory in only his second league match to seal the victory.

This means that the Gambits are guaranteed fifth place in the division; the Nelson Griffins became the first team to be promoted to division 3.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

*For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.* **PHIL JONES**

# Local derby for the Stags' league opener

**BARRY ATHLETIC Cricket Club embark on their season this weekend with two home friendlies.**

On Saturday, April 12 we are up against Blackwood Town and Sunday, April 13 we face Machen CC; both games 2pm start, players to be at the ground for 1pm.

There is also a midweek friendly next Wednesday, April 16 against Barry West End CC with a 6pm start; please be at the ground for 5.30pm.

On Saturday, April 26, Barry Athletic entertain Sully Centurions at the Island Oval for the first league game of the season with a 1pm start, and not Newbridge as previously advertised.

Junior nets are also underway and are taking place at the Cadoxton Sports Hall every Monday, 6pm -7pm.

Anyone interested in sponsoring Barry Athletic Cricket Club this season can contact sponsor manager Mark Rees on 01446 701936, 07570135831 or e-mail markrees509@hotmail.com.

Any juniors interested in playing cricket aged from seven to 15 can also contact the details above. **MR**

# Stellar line-up at Southerndown Golf Club event

*Tim Harry.*

**A GALAXY of international stars from all four home countries – as well as competitors from Canada and Denmark – will be taking part in the prestigious Duncan Putter tournament at Southerndown Golf Club this weekend.**

First to tee off will be the current holder, Tim Harry, from Dinas Powys. Tim stunned the golfing world last year by becoming the youngest ever winner of the Duncan Putter – at just 15 years of age! But he will be hard pressed to retain his title in the face of the strongest ever field – over 40 golfers below +2.0 handicap.

This is the first of the Welsh order of merit amateur golf event of the season and will showcase many of the country's top golfers.

Visitors are welcome to go along to Southerndown and marvel at the talent which in years to come may lead to honours such as the Walker Cup, the Ryder Cup – and, who knows – perhaps even the coveted 'green jacket'!


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"I'm glad my hard work has paid off and I can now look forward to spending even more quality time with my family and friends."

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**55 JAGUAR X-Type 2.2 Diesel SE** In Metallic sand, cream leather, only 17,000 miles ..... **£6,995**

**11 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 5-Dr.** In electric blue, 32,000 miles, good looking car at ..... **£6,795**

**11 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 3-Dr.** In silver, 48,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£6,495**

**09 NISSAN Note 1.4 Acenta** In met blue, 34,000 miles with sat-nav ..... **£6,495**

**58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi Design 5-Dr.** In silver, 33,000 miles diesel at ..... **£6,495**

**09 FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-Dr.** In black, 53,000 miles, 2 owners ..... **£6,495**

**08 MINI Cooper.** In oxigen blue with white roof, 59,000 miles, 1 owner with stop/start ..... **£6,495**

**08 SEAT Leon 1.6 Stylance**. In met gold, 57,000 miles, stylish family hatch ..... **£5,995**

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**55 KIA Sportage 2.0 CRDi XE 5-Dr**. In black, 76,000 miles, 1 lady owner, diesel 4x4 at ..... **£5,995**

**59 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique.** New shape, 62,000 miles, in met silver ..... **£5,695**

**07 MINI Cooper Pepper Automatic.** In lightning blue, with black roof, 70,000 miles with sat-nav etc ..... **£5,695**

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**07 HONDA Jazz 1.3 DSi Sport.** In electric blue, 44,000 miles, very desirable at ..... **£4,995**

**06 SEAT Altea 1.9 TDi Rference.** In black, 53,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£4,995**

**05 VOLVO V70 2.4 SE (170) Auto.** Met grey/beige leather, 80,000 miles, large estate ..... **£4,995**

**56 TOYOTA Avensis 2.2 D-4D T180.** In met silver, 82,000 miles with leather, sat-nav etc ..... **£4,995**

**58 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-dr.** In met grey, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax ..... **£4,695**

**07 NISSAN Note 1.6 SVE Automatic.** In silver, 47,000 miles, superb example ..... **£4,695**

**58 FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr.** In apple green metallic ..... **£4,495**

**58 SMART Fortwo Passion MHD Auto** In met blue/black two tone, 25,000 miles, 21,000 miles ..... **£4,495**

**07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi Automatic.** In black, 52,000 miles with a/c ..... **£4,495**

**04 MINI Cooper (Pepper).** In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, very nice example ..... **£4,495**

**07 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-Dr.** In met grey, 70,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc ..... **£4,295**

**55 MINI Cooper.** In chilli red with black roof, alloys, c/d etc, superb value at ..... **£4,295**

**04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel.** In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£4,295**

**09 CHEVROLET Aveo 1.2 LS 5-Dr.** In silver, 24,000 miles, fantastic value at ..... **£3,995**

**58 FIAT Grande Punto GP** In silver, 49,000 miles **£3,995**

**06 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 Design Automatic 5-Dr.** In silver, 32,000 miles ..... **£3,995**

**55 MERCEDES C180 Kompressor SE Auto.** In silver, fantastic value, executive saloon ..... **£3,995**

**05 PEUGEOT 307cc 2.0.** In met grey, full electric folding roof, 69,000 miles ..... **£3,995**

**05 MERCEDES A170 Elegance SE 5-Dr.** In met gold, 84,000 miles, nice example at ..... **£3,995**

**07 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SXi Coupe.** In black, a/c, alloys etc, stylish sport coupe ..... **£3,695**

**07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr.** In red, 44,000 miles, with rear spoiler, low insurance ..... **£3,695**

**07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-Dr.** In black, 53,000 miles ..... **£3,695**

**06 TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi Sport.** In met grey, 69,000 miles, £30 road tax ..... **£3,695**

**08 RENAULT Clio 1.2 Campus 5-Dr.** In black, 67,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£3,495**

**08 FIAT Punto Active 1.2 3-Dr.** In black, 60,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£3,495**

**56 NISSAN Micra 1.2 Activ 5-Dr.** In met silver, 50,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£3,495**

**56 PEUGEOT 207 1.4S (90) 3-Dr.** In electric blue, 63,000 miles with a/c ..... **£3,495**

**06 MAZDA 6 2OTS 5-Dr.** In silver, 78,000 miles, 2 owners ..... **£3,495**

**05 MAZDA 3 TS2 1.6 5-Dr.** In met grey, 71,000 miles ..... **£3,295**

**08 FORD KA 1.3 Style.** In silver, 39,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£2,695**

**07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr.** In red, 88,000 miles, 1 owner, low insurance ..... **£2,995**

**05 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 3-Dr.** In crystal green, 52,000 miles, alloys, a/c ..... **£2,995**

**05 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE.** In red with black leather trim, 70,000 miles, sports coupe at ..... **£2,995**

**54 VW Polo 1.2 Twist 3-Dr.** In silver, 66,000 miles, low insurance ..... **£2,995**

**02 TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 Automatic 5-Dr.** In silver, 65,000 miles with a/c, s/roof etc ..... **£2,995**

**04 SUZUKI Wagon R 1.3 Automatic.** In met blue, 73,000 miles, easy to get in and out ..... **£2,695**

**55 FORD Street KA 1.6 Ice.** In met grey, with full leather, 59,000 miles, convertable at ..... **£2,495**

**51 HONDA Civic 1.6 V-Tec S Automatic 3-Dr.** In silver, 53,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£2,495**

**53 FIAT Punto 1.4 Sporting, 6 speed.** In ice blue, 70,000 miles, multi c/d, alloys ..... **£2,195**

**54 RENAULT Laguna 1.8 Extreme.** In met grey, 71,000 miles, 1 owner ..... **£1,795**

**53 ROVER 75 1.8 SE.** In met gold, 89,000 miles, nice example at ..... **£1,795**

**10 RENAULT Scenic 1.5 DCi Privilege**
Met silver, 44,000 miles, 1 owner
**£7,495**

**58 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr.**
In apple green, metallic
**£4,495**

**04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel**
In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner
**£4,295**

**11 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop**
In white, 17,000 miles, 1 owner
**£7,495**

**61 SAAB 9.5 Vector SE 2.0 TD (160) Auto**
Met grey, 41,000 miles with leather trim
**£12,995**

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# New Suzuki is at ease in any conditions

**MOTORING WITH TIM SAUNDERS**

**FIRST impressions matter. In business, it is that care and attention to appearance, dress and general conduct that makes a lasting impression.**

The same can be applied to vehicles and that's where Suzuki scores highly. From that first moment of opening the door and sitting in the driver's seat I feel at home in the SX4 S-Cross.

Bear in mind that I drive a lot of cars and yet Suzukis always stand out because they are all comfortable.

I test the Suzuki during the worst weather for 100 years. At one point over 100,000 homes are without power and some unfortunate residents in Somerset have been without power since Christmas.

Flooding is encountered on almost every route but my Japanese friend with its raised ride height is ideal in such situations.

High winds and water-logged roads ensure that it is nigh on impossible to exceed 60mph. Those gusting high winds do buffet the Suzuki but it feels confident enough.

It is quite sluggish though, especially on start up and so it is pleasing to find that it is equipped with a sport mode that really does liven things up. In fact, it remains on this mode for most of the test because I find it gives it the oomph that I require.

Interestingly, it doesn't affect fuel economy that much either, with the vehicle still returning over 40mpg, which I'm quite impressed with considering it's a 1.6-litre petrol.

When the conditions become too slippery, it is easy to turn the centre-mounted dial to snow and mud mode, which is also extremely useful during the test. Some of the routes that I am most familiar with have been closed due to the floods.

*THE SUZUKI SX4 S-CROSS.*

The raised ride height, the permanent 4WD and the powerful windscreen wipers and washers make driving in these challenging conditions enjoyable rather than a chore.

My two girls in the back quickly fall asleep and my wife Caroline finds her heated front seat comfortable.

"I like the lemon fragrance to the windscreen wash," she says, adding that sometimes it can be very overpowering requiring the windows to be wound down.

The large glass panoramic roof makes the cabin feel light and airy and on one of the days of the test,the sun actually appears, bringing the glass roof really into its own. I like the fact that the front part also has a tilting sunroof function.

For me, the driver's seat could offer a little more lumbar support but the black leather seats are hardwearing and easy to clean, which is ideal when my two daughters are involved.

Externally, it's a good looking vehicle with quite a striking front thanks to its bumper, as you can see in the video at *testdrives.biz*. The black alloys are a neat touch, too. I like the power folding wing mirrors, which are always a welcome addition, especially when parking on busy roadsides.

The sat nav system is the easiest I have come across. It's simply a matter of tapping in the postcode and pressing 'Go' and a female voice talks you through the route. My only complaint is that the touch screen is far too sensitive for my thick fingers!

The other problem is that the system doesn't allow you to operate it while driving. It would be handy if there was a function to allow a passenger to operate it while the vehicle is being driven.

On our return home, we do notice that the steamed up windows take a long time to demist and that is with the blowers on full.

If I was to buy one, I would probably opt for a more conservative colour such as blue, rather than the lime green of the test model.

**Facts at a glance:**
New price: £14,999 to £23,549.
0-60mph: 12 secs.
Top speed: 108mph.
Economy: 40mpg.
Watch the video at *www.testdrives.biz*.

# Cardiff Arms Park coaching for youngsters

**CHILDREN aged four to seven from across the Vale and Cardiff, recently took part in a unique opportunity at Cardiff Arms Park – where they were coached in rugby and football skills.**

PG10 Coaching and Little Stars teamed up to provide sessions for children to benefit grassroots sport.

Following the festival children where given opportunities to join PG10 Tiny Tots football programme held every Tuesday and attend Little Stars rugby sessions.

Peter Griffiths of PG10 said: "The key aim for the festival was for children to be introduced to both sports and enjoy themselves. As children grow up they can be offered the chance to join the weekly development centre also, ensuring a clear development pathway."

*The next festival at Cardiff Arms Park is on Sunday, June 8, from 10am-3pm. To book on the festival, telephone 0845 680 6415, online www.littlestarsrugby.co.uk www.pg10coaching.co.uk or email enquiries@littlestarsrugby.co.uk.*

# The Petanque veterans shine at championships

**THE executive would like to thank all the teams that took part in the national veterans' championship, and for making the competition another very enjoyable day at the Wenvoe PC on Sunday, March 29.**

After a preliminary round in the morning, the top eight teams qualified for the championship elimination rounds in the afternoon.

Only two out of the 12 teams that entered won all of their games in the morning; the two teams being KPB (Barbara Vaughan, Kon Tomczyk from Caerleon RFC PC and Phil Bradshaw from Monkstone Inn PC) and the Monkstone Minotaurs (Vickie and Bernard Adshead and Keith Nott).

In the quarter-final stage the four most experienced teams qualified for the semi-finals, of which one of the teams was the reigning champions Age Concern.

Unfortunately, The Monkstone Minotaurs failed to capitalised on their success in the preliminary round.

The final was between KPB and the Monkstone Monarchs (Mike Jones, John Barnes and Roger Griffin), unfortunately the Monarchs could not stop KPB from taking the lead and pull way to win 13:5 and take the title.

The winning team of Barbara Vaughan, Kon Tomczyk and Phil Bradshaw will now be invited to attend the Over 55's European Championship, which is to be held in Lulelå, Sweden between June 27/28.

*Congratulations to the Wenvoe team of Gloria Davies, Karen Macleod and Mike Coleman on winning the competition.* **JS**

# *Point-to-point comes to town!*

**POINT-TO-POINT Steeplechasing returns to the Vale on Saturday (April 12) when the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt stage their annual races at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen.**

The feature race is the John Lovell Memorial Men's Open Race and the winning horse will qualify for the £7,500 Bonhams mens Open Point-To-Point Championship Final to be run at Cheltenham on April 30.

Cardiff bookmaker John Lovell, who was sadly killed in a motoring accident, was the man responsible for bringing computerised betting to racecourses in the UK. He was a great point-to-point stalwart and owned a number of race horses and point-to-pointers in his time.

The winner of the Ladies' Open race will qualify for the £10,000 AGA Ladies Open Point-To-Point Championship to be run at Stratford on May 30. The winner of this race will also pick up the Mandryka Challenge Trophy.

Mandryka who in the 1970s was tagged the 'Mighty Midget', 'Welsh Wonder' and 'Rhondda Rocket', won a total of 38 ladies' open races-all with Shan Morgan in the saddle - five men's open races and a Chepstow hunter chase when ridden by Cowbridge's John Llewellyn.

There will be seven races with the first of them at 2pm.

## EVAN'S FIRST HUNTER CHASE WIN

**Llanharan's Evan David rode his first hunter chase winner when landing the Totnes & Bridgetown Races Company Novice' Hunters' Chase at Newton Abbot last week on Mr D H Morgan's seven-year-old bay mare Chosen Milan which romped home some 31 lengths ahead of Little Cornham.**

Chosen Milan, a 2-1 chance, is trained by Robert Luke, who also provided Evan with another winner at the West Wales Area Club fixture on Sunday. Evan took the Connolly's Red Mills Intermediate race on 3-1 shot Anger Management.

Not to be outdone, Evan's older brother Tom, who was in action at the Portman Point-To-Point at Badbury Rings, took the open maiden race on Peter Luff's Calusa Comet, the 7-4 favourite.

## KRIS LANDS RESTRICTED

**Kris Hanmer, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, won the restricted race at the West Wales Area Club meeting on Neville Thomas's Minellaformarriage, who proved too speedy for Lee Powers's well fancied Grian Fidh; Minellaformarriage was a 6-1 outsider.**

## WILLIAMS' AINTREE SUCCESS

**Evan Williams' Court Minstrel, who carried top weight of 11st 12lbs, won the £25,024 Maxilead Handicap Hurdle for Conditional and Amateur Riders at Aintree at odds of 16-1.**

The seven-year-old was partnered by Adam Wedge, who has certainly made a name for himself since joining Williams' Llancarfan yard.

However, Evan will probably come in for some stick from his Saturday Daily Mirror column readers for not even mentioning the horse in his popular column!

Evan, who thanks to State Of Play and Cappa Bleu, had a horse in the frame in the Grand National for the past five years, was represented this time by One In A Milan (Adam Wedge) who fell at the 22nd fence.

However, Evan's stable jockey Paul Moloney, who had ridden State Of Play and Cappa Bleu, kept up his excellent record in the race when finishing fourth on Alvarado, a horse once trained by Evan but now by Fergal O'Brien.

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan saw his Golan Way (Michael Byrne) come down at fence eight.

## TUDOR REIGNS

**Cowbridge's James Tudor, riding Mr I R Mann's Sharp Suit took the North Warwickshire Hunt Club Members Race at Mollington last Saturday.**

Sharp Suit, who went off the odds-on favourite, is now unbeaten in four starts.

## KNIGHT BLAZE

**Knight Blaze, a seven-year-old bay mare owned and trained by David Brace OBE at Pyle near Bridgend, and ridden by Bradley Gibbs, won the TBA CA Club Members Mares and Fillies race at the West Wales Area Club Point-To-Point last Sunday.**

**BRIAN LEE**

# *Players wanted*

**BARRY RFC under-12s rugby team (current year 7) are currently on the lookout for new players.**

**We have a new coaching team and have spaces for new players of all ability and positions to play, learn and develop.**

***We train every Sunday and Tuesday evening; please contact Carol on 07768 017673.*** **CG**

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# HONOURS EVEN FOR THE MULES

*ABOVE: Ben Clarke crosses for Kenfig Hill on their way to a 18-18 draw with Cwmllynfell.*
*PICTURES BY PETER GILLING*

*A dry cleaner's nightmare as Jason Davies escapes with the*

*RIGHT: Jon Thomas gets across the whitewash.*

**THIS game between Kenfig Hill and Cwmllynfell was played with a high skill level despite the atrocious conditions.**

Kenfig Hill got off to a flying start when centre Rhodri Clark caught the ball from the kick off and blasted his way up the field, only to be stopped just short of the line.

A scrum ensued, the Mules gained possession and outside half Lloyd Giles crossed in the corner for a try.

Kenfig Hill continued to apply pressure and second row Jon Thomas scored his second try of the season when he dived over the line.

At this time the Mules were rampant and a third try followed when right winger Ben Clarke sped up the touchline to score in the corner.

The visitors then woke up and got back in the game with three quick tries through winger Steffan Stone, back row forward Michael Owen and outside half Rory Morgan-Williams.

The game continued at pace for the rest of the half with Kenfig Hill having the upper hand but failing to score; however Rhodri Clark made a brilliant tackle, saving what looked like a certain try for the visitors.

The game continued at pace in the second half with Kenfig Hill having the upper hand in the scrum and the forwards doing well in the loose.

Cwmllynfell scored a drop goal through their outside half and Kenfig Hill replied with a penalty by Rhodri Clark.

With both sides' defences operating efficiently these were the only scores in the second half, the final score Kenfig Hill 18 Cwmllynfell 18.

For Kenfig Hill prop Gavin Reffel was named man of the match with second row Luke Turton having a good game on his first team debut; fellow second row Jon Thomas also played well as did number 8 Jason Davies. Steve Gillard also played his first game for several weeks, having been injured.

*Kenfig Hill: Chris Tossell (c), Ben Clarke, Rhodri Clarke, Marc Fitzgerald, Chris Jenkins, Lloyd Giles, Matthew Tossell, Ben Uphill, Karl Davies, Gavin Reffell, Luke Turton, Jon Thomas, Dan Jones, Evan Williams, Jason Davies. Substitutes: Lewis David, Chris Leyshon, Steve Gillard, Lee Rogers.*

Kenfig Hill RFC are looking for a forwards coach - any person interested please contact the clubhouse or e-mail: mulesrugby@hotmail.co.uk.

**GOS**

# Local bridge club update

**THE results for Bridgend Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:**

Wednesday, April 2: First Linda Pinnock and Bill Turner, second Geoff Tinkler and John Henson, third Dave Barwood and Jane Brook.

Friday, April 4: First Tony Ratcliff and Patrick Jourdain, second Norma and David Newman, equal third Bill Turner and John Raymond & Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock.

The best placed improvers for Thursday, April 3 were Norma Phinnemore and Susan Hunt Colin Lewis and Stuart Davies.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm, to which all bridge players are most welcome, on Thursdays from 2pm to 5pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there are gentle bridge sessions for the less experienced and where assistance is readily available.

A new course for beginners will begin in September - to register an interest call either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans on 01656 880372

Please note the charity cheese and wine night in aid of the Bridgend Samaritans has been moved to Friday, May 9 - all will be most welcome on this special night.

**DN**

# *Athletic crushed by north Walians*

**THERE was to be no repeat of the 21-13 home victory over second placed RGC1404 as Bridgend Athletic's unbeaten run in 2014 came to an abrupt end with a heavy 57-6 defeat at the hand of the north Wales club.**

The Athletic were without three of their regular forwards who were on World Cup qualifying duty with Malta and a number of players were unavailable to make the long journey up north; five of the matchday squad had no Championship experience.

In the first half the Athletic were competitive and led 6-5 through two Steven Lewis penalties – the first of which took him to 200 points for the season, until a minute before halftime when a second RGC try gave them a 10-6 interval lead.

The forwards, with senior players Simon Mustoe, Griff Davies, Tom Penry Ellis and Sean Williams, had kept the Athletic in the game and held their own throughout the game in set piece scrums and line outs.

From the restart of the second half the Athletic dropped the ball. RGC moved the ball wide from the resulting scrum and extended their lead.

The Athletic were hit by injuries to full back Josh White and centre Chris Price and flanker Harry Griffiths. RGC then decided they would no longer compete at forward and just run the ball from everywhere.

Gaps opened up frequently in the inexperienced Athletic back line and the forwards were powerless to stop the rampaging home side from running in seven second half tries.

The modern game is now 20-a-side – not 15 – and RGC were able to bring on equally talented substitutes with fresh legs to keep up the momentum.

Captain Sean Williams must have made close to a hundred tackles in the game aided by fellow flanker Sam Treharne. Centre Nick Hinton also tried valiantly to stem the tide.

The Athletic must now regroup from this setback and face the daunting task of newly-crowned unbeaten runaway champions Ebbw Vale at home this Saturday, April 12.

The game will take place at the South Wales Police ground – kick off 2.30pm. Only Bridgend Athletic and RGC have scored more than 20 points against Ebbw Vale this season – both recording 24 points – so it is hoped that the club can be competitive in this fixture.

Recent encounters have seen end to end play so both sets of fans and any neutrals should witness a good game.

**AB**

# Academy's teams continue to excel

**BRIDGEND COLLEGE Football Academy's first and second teams continue to excel in their respective British Colleges leagues.**

The first team's recent 2-1 victory against second place Coleg Sir Gar at Stebonheath cemented their place at the top of the league.

Coleg Sir Gar started the game as expected, closing down the Bridgend College team, trying to stop the flowing football that is so often key to Bridgend's success.

Rhondda's Chad Nicholas was instrumental in his quarter-back midfield role for Bridgend College, dictating the pace and rhythm of the game with his range of passing.

Morgan Thomas scored his 14th goal of the season to give the visitors the lead - finishing some good work from Tom McCarthy out wide.

Controversy followed in the dying minutes of the first half with the Coleg Sir Gar striker tripping Bridgend College right back Jamie Miller, and moving into a goal scoring position to equalise.

The second half continued in the same vein with Chad Nicholas trying to start attacks against Coleg Sir Gar with Bridgend College patient passing game.

A change of formation to a diamond midfield midway through the second half finally produced the space needed to pass the ball and break down the gritty host defence.

Bridgend College players Corbin Bishop, Morgan Thomas and Tom Walters were involved in a move that resulted in Joe McCarthy beating the diving keeper to make it eight games unbeaten and take all three points home.

The second team are also in a rich vein of form beating visitors Coleg Sir Gar 2-0 with an outstanding show of football, with goals scored by Josh Hartfoot and Brad Young.

The second team now lie second in their British Colleges league, behind Fairwater first team but with a game in hand.

**JW**

# Students tame the Cougars!

**WALES STUDENTS were given a strong challenge by Valley Cougars at Penallta last Wednesday night as both sides prepare for tough forthcoming campaigns.**

The Students will be taking part in the international Four Nations competition in Nottingham in the week leading up to Easter and will play three games in six days, while Valley Cougars take part in the Conference South league for the first time.

There were South Wales Scorpions players on both sides so the intensity was high and rivalry was fierce.

Wales Students won 28-16 but it looked like at one stage that it was going to be a walkover, especially when they went 16-0 up in less than 15 minutes.

Loughborough's Tom Hughes scored the first Wales Students try in the 10th minute which was unconverted and that was followed by two more tries, both from the first set after the respective kick-offs.

Lloyd Thomas, also from Loughborough University, scored in the corner with Bath's Fraser Robinson converting the first of two in a row, before his university team-mate Morgan Evans ran through for the third.

However, the Cougars made a number of substitutions and fought back. Daryl Carter scored under the sticks on 25 minutes, converting himself, then five minutes later Ian Newbury grounded in the corner to bring the score back to 16-10 to the Students which is how it remained at halftime.

In the second period, the Students quickly stamped their mark on the game once again. Rhys Fitzgerald from University of South Wales scored just wide of the sticks before his university colleague Mike Connor and Maesteg School's Zak Williams both notched tries in the corner.

All conversion attempts were missed but a 28-10 scoreline was just too much for the Cougars to claw back.

The home side did have the final say. With just a few minutes remaining, Dafydd Hellard ran down the wing to score and Carter did well to convert.

Valley Cougars kick off their Conference South fixtures with a home game against Bristol Sonics at Penallta RFC on Saturday, April 12 (kick-off 2.30pm) while Wales Students play their first Four Nations game the next day, taking on Ireland at Nottingham University (kick-off 4.30pm).

**IG**